はがねのれんきんじゅつし

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

荒川 弘

Hiromu Arakawa

4

GANGAN COMICS

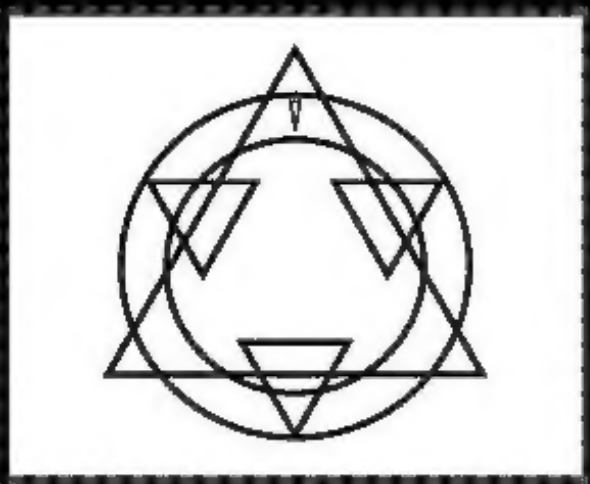
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST™

STORY AND ART BY
HIROMU ARAKAWA

4

What do I most look forward to when creating manga? Why, doing the bonus pages, of course! I wish I could just do a whole 180 pages of nothing but bonus pages!

—Hiromu Arakawa, 2003



Born in Hokkaido (northern Japan), Hiromu Arakawa first attracted national attention in 1999 with her award-winning manga **Stray Dog**. Her series **Fullmetal Alchemist** debuted in 2001 in Square Enix's monthly manga anthology **Shonen Gangan**.

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

鋼の錬金術師

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4

荒川弘

HIROMU ARAKAWA

鋼の錬金術師

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

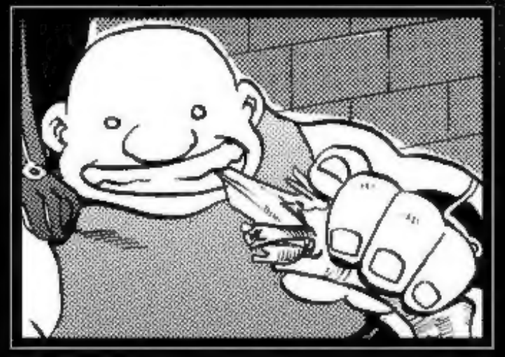
CHARACTERS
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

■ ウィンリィ・ロックベル

Winry Rockbell

■ 傷の男(スカー)

Scar



■ グラトニー

Gluttony

■ ラスト

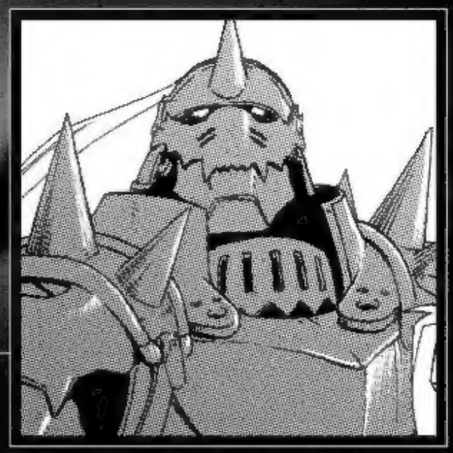
Lust

■ マース・ヒューズ

Maes Hughes

■ エンヴィー

Envy



■ アルフォンス・エルリック

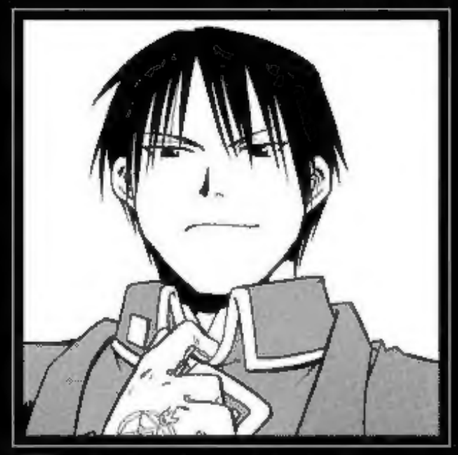
Alphonse Elric

■ エドワード・エルリック

Edward Elric

■ アレックス・ルイ・アームストロング

Alex Louis Armstrong



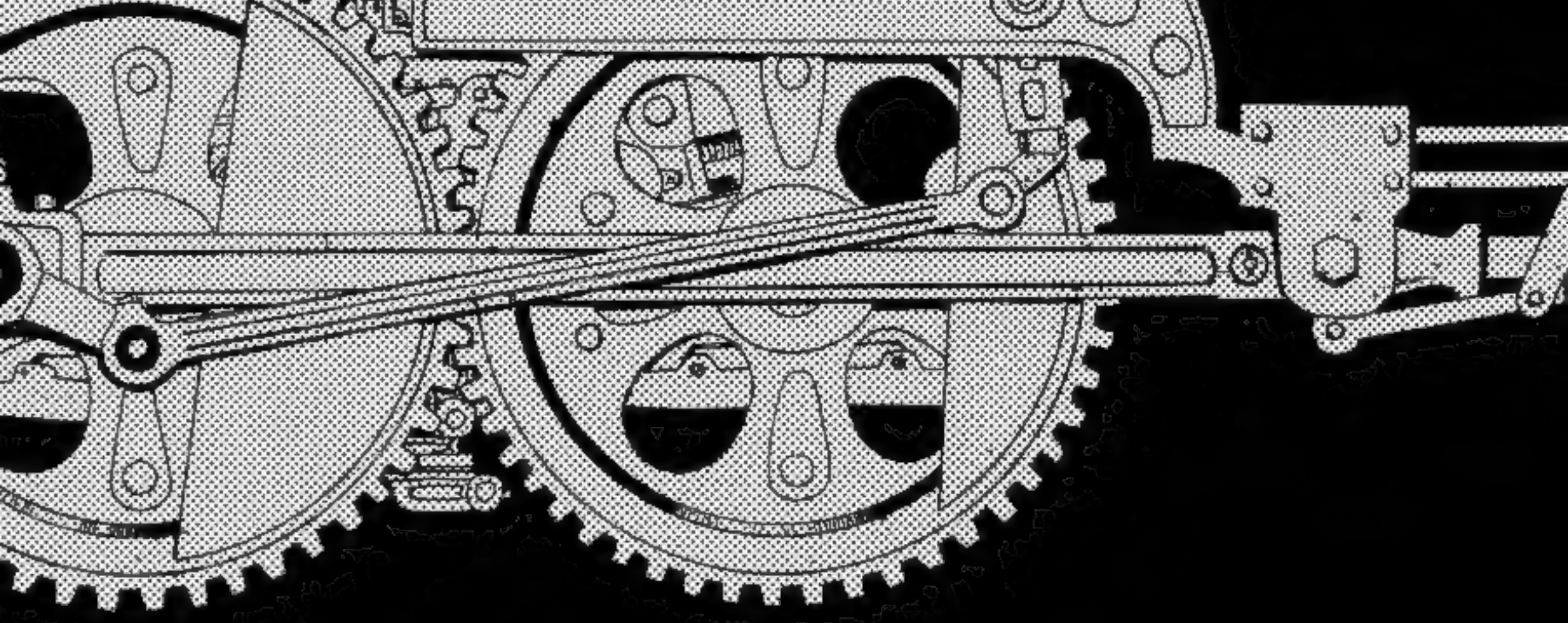
■ ロイ・マスタング

Roy Mustang

OUTLINE
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Using a forbidden alchemical ritual, the Elric brothers attempted to bring their dead mother back to life. But the ritual went wrong, consuming Edward Elric's leg and Alphonse Elric's entire body. At the cost of his arm, Edward was able to graft his brother's soul into a suit of armor. Equipped with mechanical "auto-mail" to replace his missing limbs, Edward becomes a state alchemist, serving the military on deadly missions. Now, the two brothers roam the world in search of a way to regain what they have lost...

In search of the Philosopher's Stone, the Elric brothers break into a top-secret government laboratory. Within, they find evidence of horrible experiments, guarded by two killers whose souls are housed in suits of armor, like Alphonse. But just when the killers are about to explain everything, the "clean-up crew" arrives...



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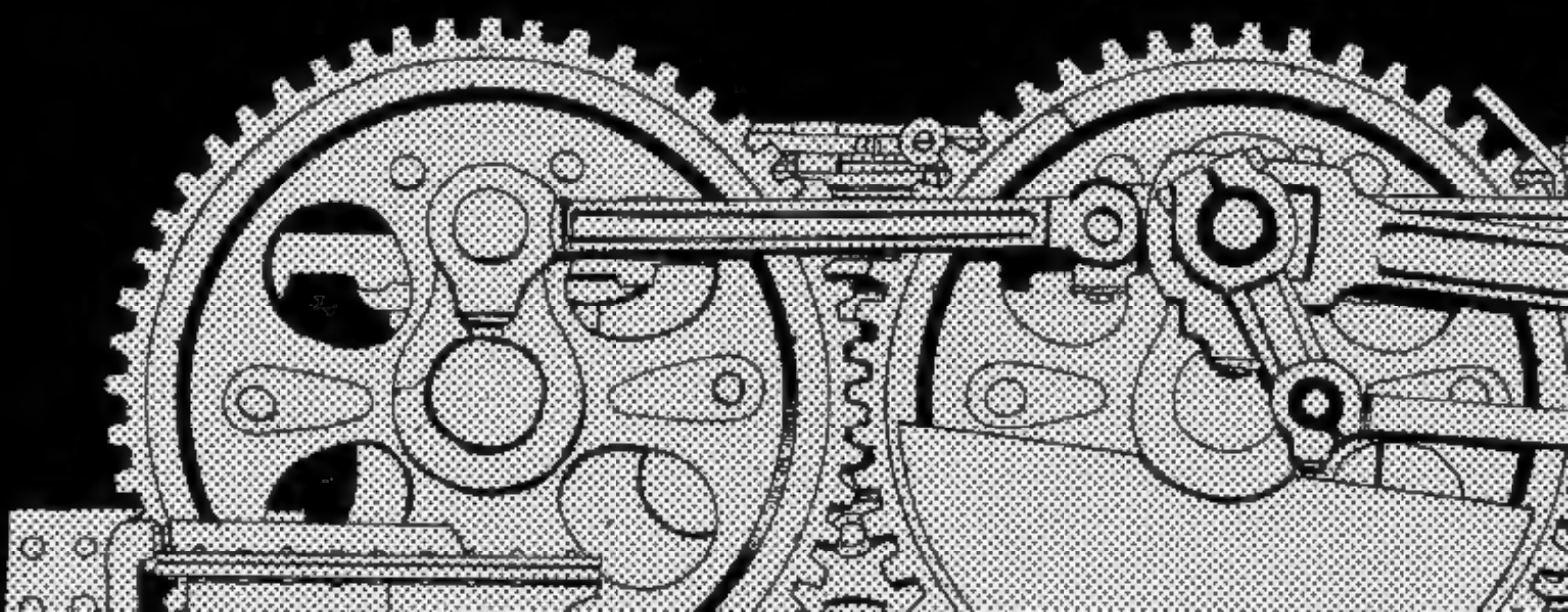
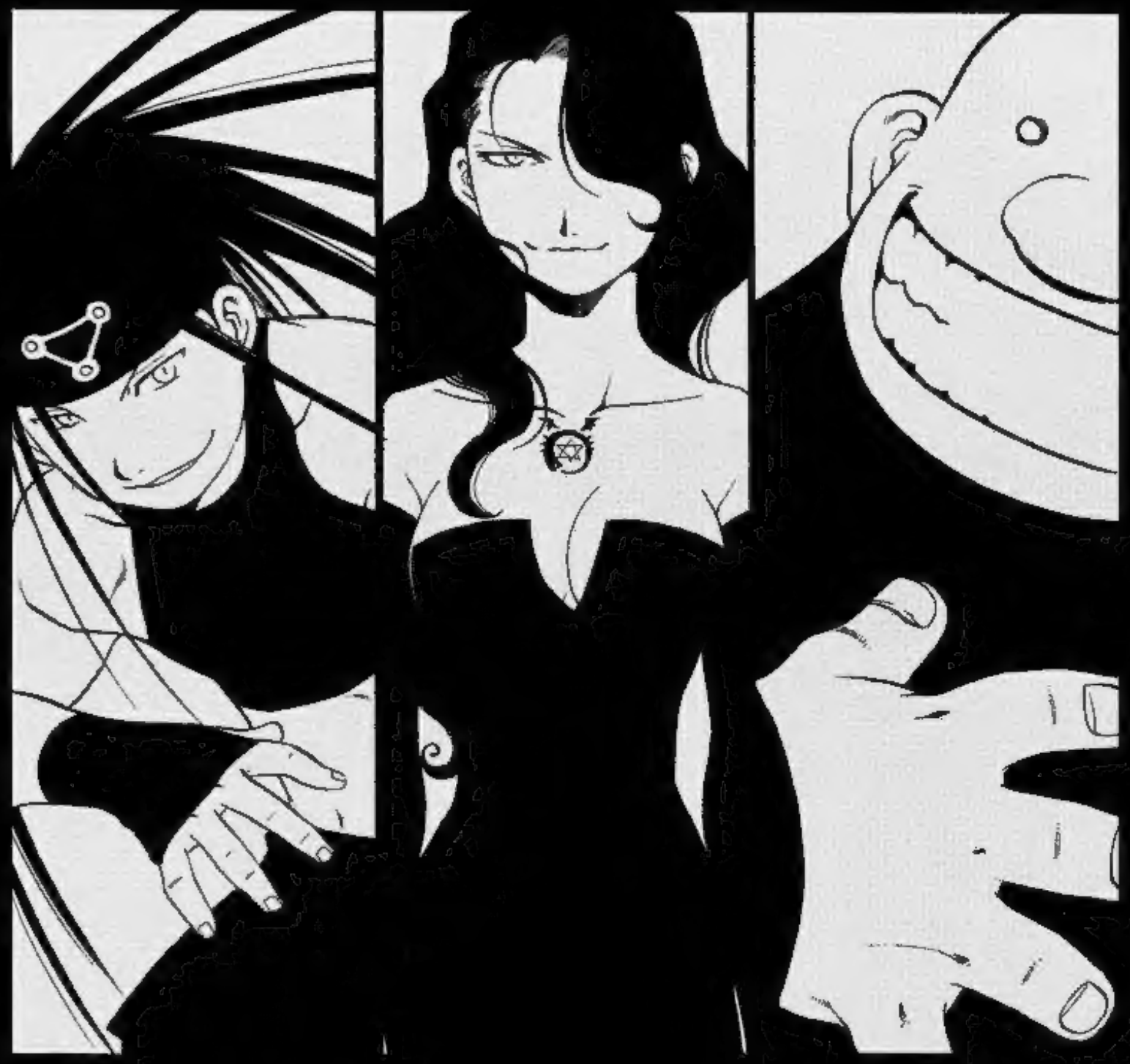


Chapter 13: Fullmetal Body



WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME CHILD.

I WONDER HOW HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE?

I HATE TO DO THIS IN FRONT OF YOUR BROTHER, BUT YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.

URGH...

SNK

DAMMIT, WE CAN STILL FIGHT!!

B-BIG BROTHER!! BIG BROTHER!!

BIG BRO- THER !!

SHUNK

GIVE US A–

GIVE US A BODY...

GIVE US A NEW BODY !!

JUST SHUT THE HELL UP BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING ELSE YOU'LL REGRET.

GIV...

STAB

STAB

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU WERE ABOUT TO START REVEALING OUR SECRETS.

STAB

YOU TWO COULD HAVE TOTALLY WRECKED OUR PLANS! WERE YOU PLANNING TO MAKE IT UP TO US?! ***WELL?***

STAB

GOD! DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE TWO OF YOU ALMOST KILLED OUR PRECIOUS ***HUMAN SACRIFICE?*** YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CLUE WHAT THAT MEANS, DO YOU?

STAB

HUH ?

STAB

WELL, COME ON! ***SAY*** SOME-THING!

STAB

STAB

HE'S ALREADY DEAD.

ENVY.

FIGURES. THAT IDIOT HAD NO BACKBONE AT ALL.

OH ?

AH! YES, YES.

HE'S SO WEAK IT MAKES ME *SICK.*

REALLY.

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU FOR MAKING IT THIS FAR.

BUT YOU ***DID*** SEE SOMETHING THAT YOU ***SHOULDN'T*** HAVE.

PLEASED TO MEETCHA, MR. FULLMETAL RUNT.

MAYBE I SHOULD ***KILL*** YOU AFTER ALL, HM?

WHOA ?!

VAP

WHY... YOU...

SCFF

HUH ?

THAT SUCKS.

I DON'T WANT TO GET HURT.

BUMMER. I WAS HOPING WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

HUFF HUFF

HOW CUTE. LITTLE GUY STILL HAS SOME *FIGHT* IN HIM.

CL AP

QUIT CALLING ME *SMALL*!

CRACK

I'LL BEAT YOU SO BAD YOU'LL WISH YOU NEVER—

YOU STARTED THIS FIGHT, AND I'M GONNA END IT!!

WHA AAA ?!!

AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

...WHA ?

SAG

LUCKY ♪

LOOKS LIKE YOUR AUTO-MAIL'S BUSTED.

GEH!!

WHAM!

FWUMP

ONE MORE THING, BOY.

I WAS JUST KIDDING WHEN I SAID THAT I WOULD KILL YOU.

WHEEE

SPARED YOU HAVING THE LIVING *CRAP* BEAT OUT OF YOU.

YOU SHOULD BE GLAD YOUR ARM FELL OFF.

DON'T EVER FORGET THAT ***WE LET YOU LIVE.***

GRANTED, WE DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO FIND THIS PLACE, BUT JUST KNOWING ABOUT THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE STONES WON'T GET HIM ANYWHERE

WELL, THEN

WE NO LONGER NEED THIS FACILITY TO MAKE STONES ANYWAY. LET'S JUST BLOW THIS PLACE UP TO GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE, SHALL WE?

YOU SURE IT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA TO LET THIS KID LIVE?

AFTER ALL, OUR PLAN IS ALREADY IN ITS ***FINAL STAGE***

WHAT IF YOUR PERSONALITY AND MEMORIES WERE ALL FABRICATED BY YOUR "BIG BROTHER" ?

HEY AL

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

...BUT I'VE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO BRING IT UP...

WHAT WAS IT THAT ED WAS TRYING TO TELL ME?

TOO AFRAID TO BRING IT UP...

TOO AFRAID...

GA CHNG

!!

YOU'RE SLOWIN' DOWN! GOT SOME-THIN' ON YOUR MIND?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BUB?

...

THE TINIEST DOUBT ENTERS YOUR BIG METAL HEAD AND YOU HAVE A ***BREAK-DOWN!!***

SEEMS LIKE EVEN AN ***ARTIFICIAL SOUL*** AIN'T PERFECT!

GEH HA HA HA HA !!

JUST ACCEPT IT.

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER THAT WAY.

I'M NOT...

SH... SHUT UP !!

KWA

NG!

WHY YOU...

CLUNK

SLAM

KA

BLAM

GEH HA HA HA HA!

I GOT YOU NOW!

DON'T MOVE !

WHAT THE-?!

THUD

NOW, BE QUIET AND HAND OVER THE BIG GUY TO US.

NEXT TIME I'LL AIM FOR YOUR HEAD.

WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE GUARDING THE GUY YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL.

WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU* GUYS?

SECOND LIEU-TENANT ROSS...

HEY! SHOULDN'T THAT SECURITY CHUMP HAVE KEPT OUT YOU RIFF-RAFF?

OH YEAH...

I CHOPPED HIM UP, DIDN'T I? *OOPS.* MY BAD.

AW, NUTS.

FRICKIN' BODYGUARDS! JUST WHEN THINGS WERE GETTING INTERESTING, TOO!

HMPH...

RR

RRR

RRR

THIS IS STARTING TO BE A REAL PAIN... EH?

RR

RR

RRR

MM

MM

MMM

...?

WHAT'S THAT SOUND...?

BOOM

RMBRMBRMBRMBRMBRMB

WHAT THE-?!

WH...

SER-GEANT!! WE HAVE TO EVAC-UATE !!

AN EXPLO-SION !

!!!

SKRASH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? RUN!

HOLD ON... !

TURN

MY BRO-THER !!

RR

RMB

DON'T BE A FOOL!! IF YOU GO IN THERE, YOU'LL BE CRUSHED, TOO!!

MY BROTHER'S STILL INSIDE! LET ME GO!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!

DASH

HEY! FREEZE !!

RUN LIKE HELL !!

DM DM DM DM

HM...I GUESS IT'S TIME TO...

...DAMN !!

GEH HEH HEH HEH

YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT HIGH TAILING IT TOO, CHUMP, UNLESS YOU WANNA END UP A *PANCAKE.*

RIGHT NOW, JUST THINK ABOUT SAVING YOURSELF!!

MY BROTHER... MY BROTHER IS...!!

RM RM RM

KRMM

BIG BRO-THER ?!

I CAME TO DELIVER A *PACKAGE.*

HELLO THERE.

@SKSH KRSH

YOU GUYS SHOULD TAKE BETTER CARE OF THE LITTLE GUY. HE'S QUITE TALENTED, YOU KNOW.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIM.

HIS WOUNDS AREN'T TOO BAD, BUT HE'S LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD, SO YOU'D BETTER GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL, QUICK.

RM RM RM RM RM RM

SER-GEANT! GIVE ME A HAND !!

SECOND LIEU-TENANT ROSS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WE HAVE TO MOVE!!

YOU SHOULD RUN, TOO-

THOOM

I'LL EXPLAIN IT LATER !!

ED?! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!

KABAM

UH... UM...

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?! C'MON !

D-D-D-DM

WHERE'D HE GO...?

DO OM!

SMOLDER

KRAK

NOW THAT THEY'VE ABANDONED LABORATORY 5, I GUESS THAT MEANS THEY HAVE NO MORE USE FOR ME.

BAM

KRASHSKRASH

DAMN... THEY REALLY DID A NUMBER ON THAT PLACE.

AND I'M SURE 48 MUST BE DEAD, TOO.

HMPH...

NO POINT IN GOING BACK TO THEM JUST SO THEY CAN DISPOSE OF ME.

I THINK I'LL JUST ENJOY THE SWEET SMELL OF FREEDOM FOR AWHILE...

WATCH-TOWER! GIVE ME A REPORT! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE ?!

KRAKA-BAMMMM

BLAM! BOOM!

CENTRAL PRISON

LABO-RATORY 5 JUST EXPLODED !

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT SHOULD POSE ANY DANGER TO THE PRISON...

RM RM RM RM

DM DM DM DM DM

RRMM

WHAT'S GOING ON?

LET ME OUT !!

CLANG CLANG

THOOOOOOM

LET ME OUT !!

QUIET DOWN, YOU IDIOTS !!

LET ME OUT OF HERE !

AHA !

IT'S AN EARTH-QUAKE !!

DM DM DM DM DM !!!

29

AHH... THAT SOUNDS *GREAT*, DOESN'T IT?

DM DM DM DM DM

AN EARTH-QUAKE? THAT'S PRETTY RARE...

QUIET IN THERE, KIMBLEY !

SUCH A *NICE* SOUND.

THE WAY IT SHAKES YOUR BODY TO THE CORE...

THAT'S THE SOUND OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES REDUCING A BUILDING TO RUBBLE.

I WAS REMINISCING ABOUT THE ***ISHBALAN EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN*** AND IT PUT ME IN A GOOD MOOD.

OH... I'M SORRY.

RM RM RM RM RM

YES... IT REALLY IS SUCH A PLEASANT SOUND..

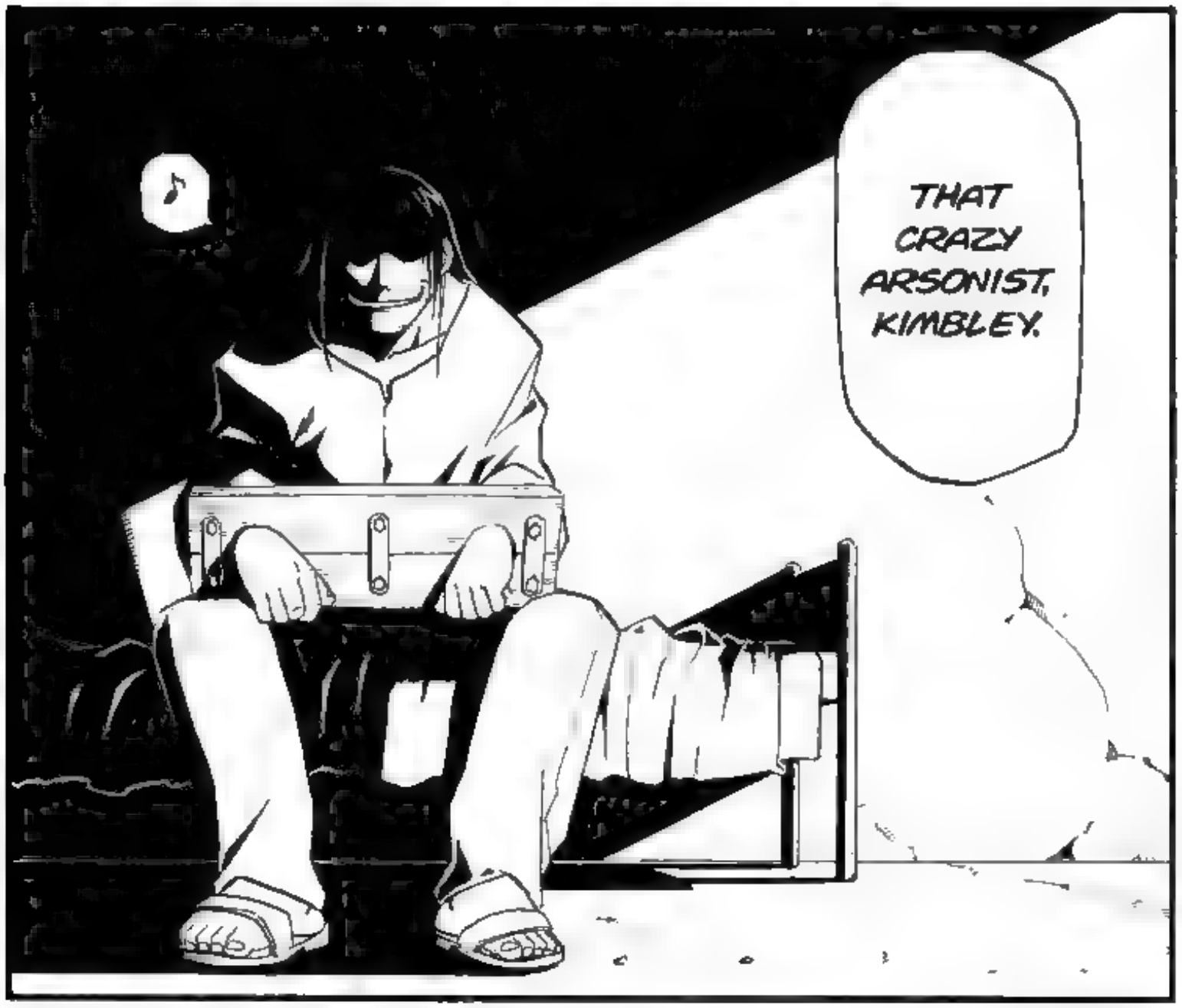
FREAK. HE'S BEEN GIDDY EVER SINCE THE EXPLOSION WENT OFF.

HUH? IS HE ***WHISTLING?*** HE MUST BE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.

29

IS THAT SO?

THE OLD LAB NEXT DOOR EXPLODED! THERE'S NO DANGER TO THE PRISON, THOUGH.


♪
THAT CRAZY ARSONIST, KIMBLEY.

BA BA M
KA SKRASH KRASH

MMG

GGG

OH!

EDWARD.

WHERE AM I?

IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE FINALLY UP!

YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL YOU'RE WELL, SIR.

WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO TAKE YOU TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN CASE THEY STARTED ASKING QUESTIONS.

IT'S A CLINIC RUN BY A FRIEND OF SECOND LIEU-TENANT ROSS.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR ME TO BE STUCK IN A HOSPITAL !

I WAS SO CLOSE TO FINDING OUT THE TRUTH...

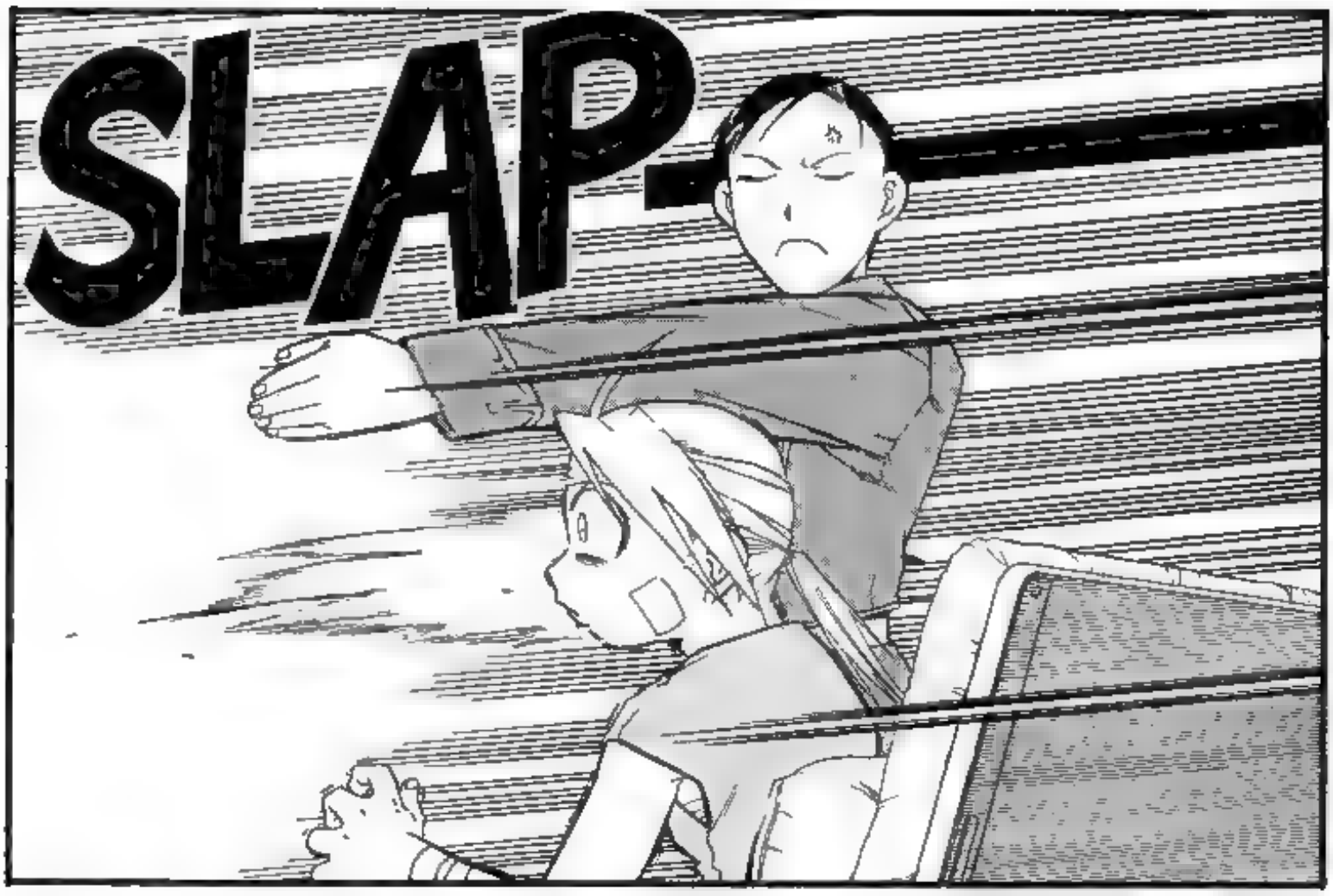
DAMN, IT HURTS...

PLEASE ALLOW US TO APOLO-GIZE IN ADVANCE FOR OUR RUDE-NESS !

TEN-HUT!

FULL-METAL ALCHE-MIST, SIR!

HUH ?


SLAP-

MAJOR ARMSTRONG SPECIFICALLY TOLD YOU NOT TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN! YOU DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER!!
AP...
DAZE
DAZE
HE KNEW THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE DANGEROUS- THAT'S WHY HE TOLD YOU TO STAY PUT IN YOUR LODGINGS !!
BECAUSE YOU DISOBEYED THE MAJOR'S ORDERS, YOU ALMOST GOT YOURSELVES KILLED!

AND SECONDLY, YOU CAN'T ALWAYS ACT ON YOUR OWN YOU NEED TO LEARN TO WORK WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

SIGH.

UH HUH

FIRST OF ALL...YOU MAY BE TALENTED, SIR, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE STILL A *CHILD!*

SIR !

...IT'S OKAY TO TRUST ADULTS SOME-TIMES.

CLAK

NO... I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE.

...UH...

SNAP

PLEASE FORGIVE OUR INSUBORD-INANCE FOR SPEAKING SO RUDELY AND RAISING A HAND AGAINST YOU!

...I'M... I'M SORRY.

phew...

AND WILL YOU REPRI-MAND US FOR SLAPPING YOU...?

NAH. I HAD IT COMING.

ONE WORD FROM YOU AND WE COULD BE DISCHARGED.

ALTHOUGH YOU'RE NOT A STANDARD SOLDIER, YOUR RANK IS EQUIVALENT TO *MAJOR*.

WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO POLITE TO ME?

I'M JUST A "CHILD," RIGHT?

AND THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO POLITE.

AFTER ALL, I DIDN'T TAKE THE STATE ALCHEMY TEST FOR THE RANK.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO NERVOUS AROUND ME.

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S AL?

I PUNCHED HIM AND GAVE HIM THE SAME LECTURE THAT WE GAVE TO YOU.

AHEM

THEY'RE SO QUICK TO ADAPT!!

WHAT A RELIEF! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS FOR ME TO BE SO POLITE TO SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN ME!!

NO JOKE?

HE'S GOT A PRETTY HARD HEAD, HUH? HA HA HA HA HA!

THROB

AND I NEARLY BROKE MY HAND IN THE PROCESS.

HA...

HA.

AH— OUCH! AH HA HA HA.

BRIINGGG

?

I JUST REMEMBERED. THERE'S ONE MORE THING THAT I'M GOING TO GET YELLED AT FOR.

HELLO? ROCKBELL AUTO-MAIL SHOP.

SUCH BAD MANNERS

HEY, WINRY? IT'S ME.

I GOT IT.

RINGG

RINGG

WOOF

UM...THIS IS REALLY HARD FOR ME TO ASK, BUT...COULD YOU, UM, COME OUT HERE TO DO SOME REPAIRS?

ED? WHAT'S UP? I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET A PHONE CALL FROM ***YOU*** OF ALL PEOPLE.

I WAS HOPING THAT YOU COULD COME TO CEN-TRAL.

WELL, I BUSTED MY RIGHT ARM AND... IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT I CAN'T EXACTLY GET OVER THERE RIGHT NOW.

YOU WANT ***ME*** TO COME TO ***YOU***?

HM... I GUESS IT DIDN'T WORK AFTER ALL...

HUH ?

NOTHING. NOTHING IMPOR-TANT.

WELL, I CAN MOVE MY FINGERS, BUT I CAN'T LIFT MY ARM AT ALL.

IT FEELS LIKE MY SHOUL-DER'S BEEN DISLO-CATED.

BUSTED?! BUSTED HOW?

I TOLD YOU THAT IT WOULD BREAK IF YOU'RE TOO ROUGH WITH IT, DIDN'T I?!!

AGAIN ?!!

DID YOU LIFT ANYTHING HEAVY OR SWING YOUR ARM AROUND MORE THAN NECESSARY ?

I KINDA GOT INTO A ***BIG FIGHT***.

...I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

WHERE IN CENTRAL ?

HUH ?

?

SILENCE...

...WINRY ?

...HELLO ?

OF COURSE I AM! I'M ALWAYS NICE!!

SAID DEFENSIVELY

...IS SOME-THING WRONG? YOU'RE ACTING AWFULLY... NICE.

I SAID I'M COMING TO DO THE REPAIRS.

//DIG DIG

SO WHERE DO I HAVE TO GO?

GOT IT. THANKS A LOT.

UH HUH.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL CALL YOU LATER ABOUT THE DETAILS.

THAT WAS NOT MY GIRL-FRIEND !!

DID YOU JUST CALL YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

GUSH

Phew...

CLACK

THAT'S ALL? HOW BORING.

GARAGARA GARA GARA

SHE'S JUST MY AUTO-MAIL MECHANIC !

DON'T YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND ?

HEH HEH

BORING'S FINE WITH ME!

DON'T WANT ONE !

GARA GARA

NURSE!!

OH NO! HIS WOUND OPENED UP!!

OH NO, THAT'S NOT GOOD.

PITTER PATTER

OH...I SEE MOM WAVING TO ME AT THE END OF A BRIGHT TUNNEL...

WHAT'S HE DOING SITTING IN THE CORNER BY HIMSELF ?

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...

GARA GARA GARA

HUH? AL...

HELLO ?

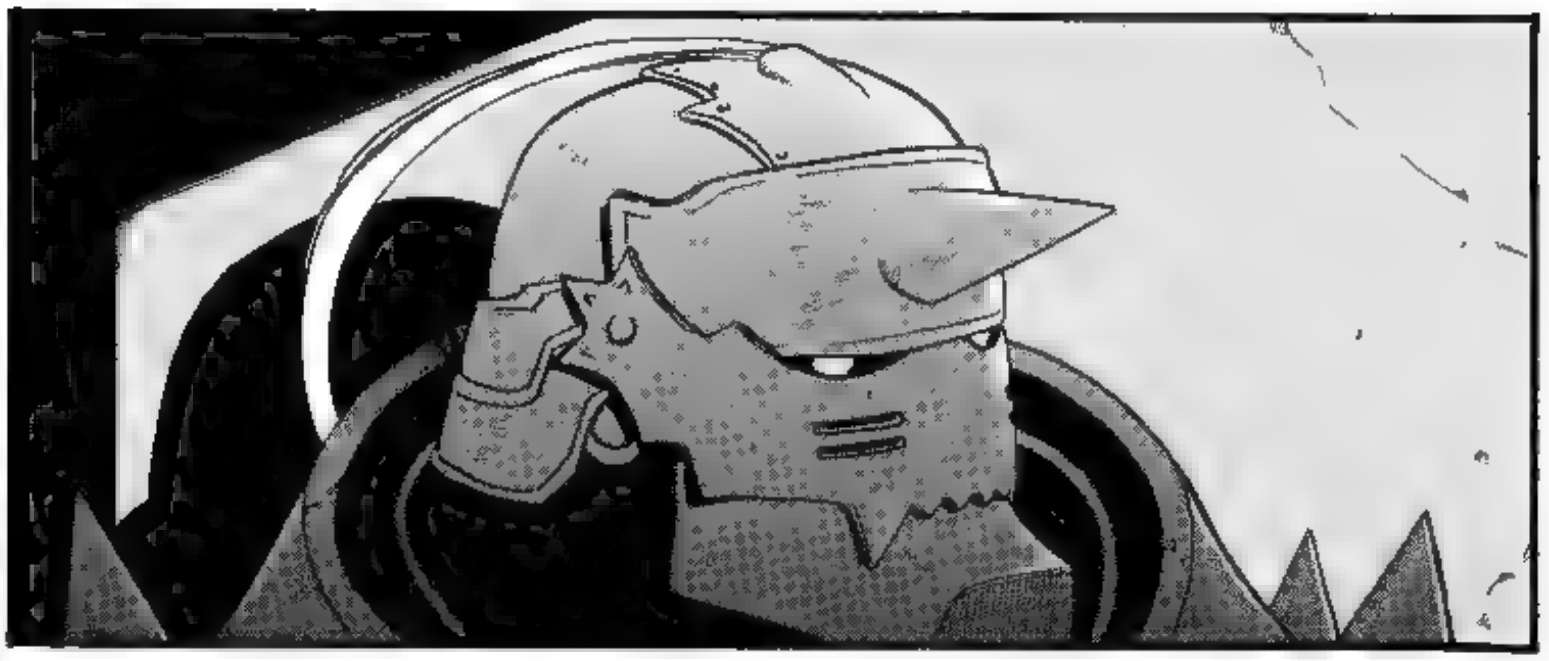
UM...

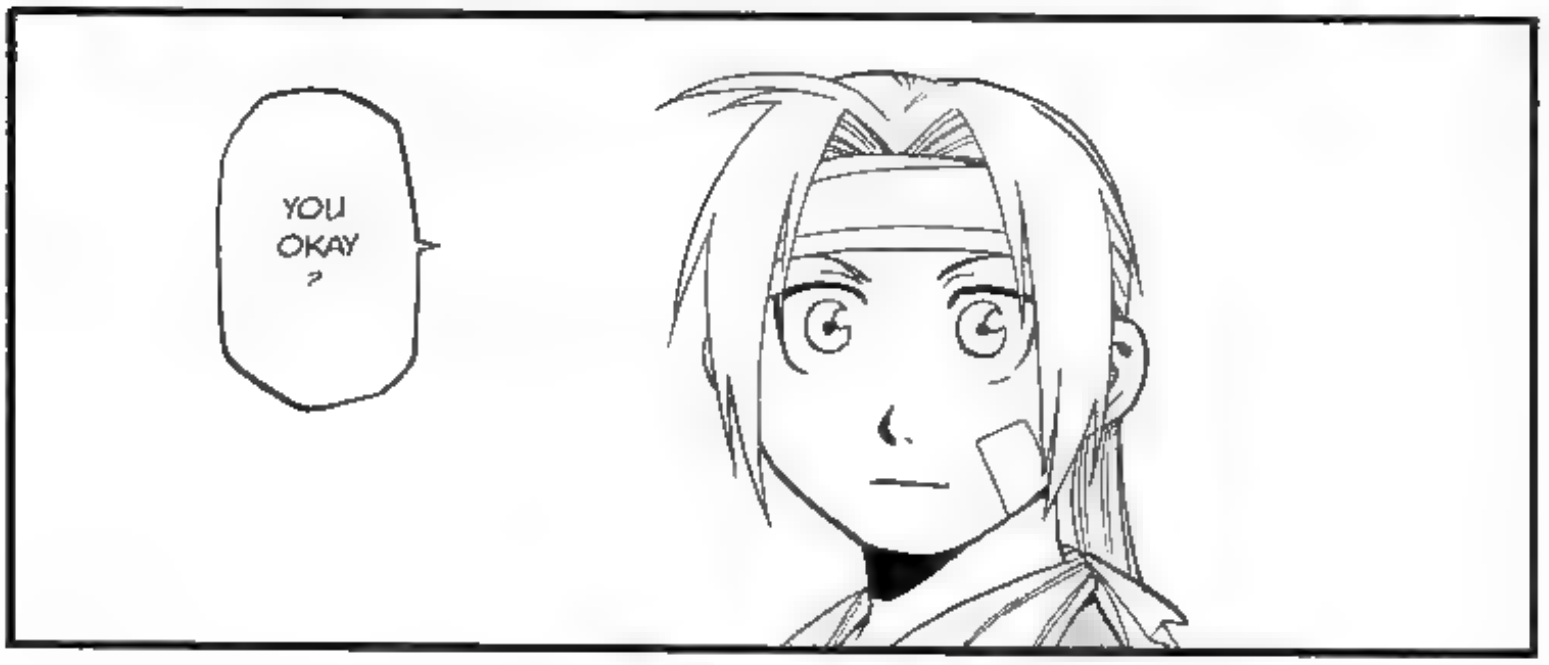
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM.

BIG... BRO- THER ?

TWITCH

HEY, AL!



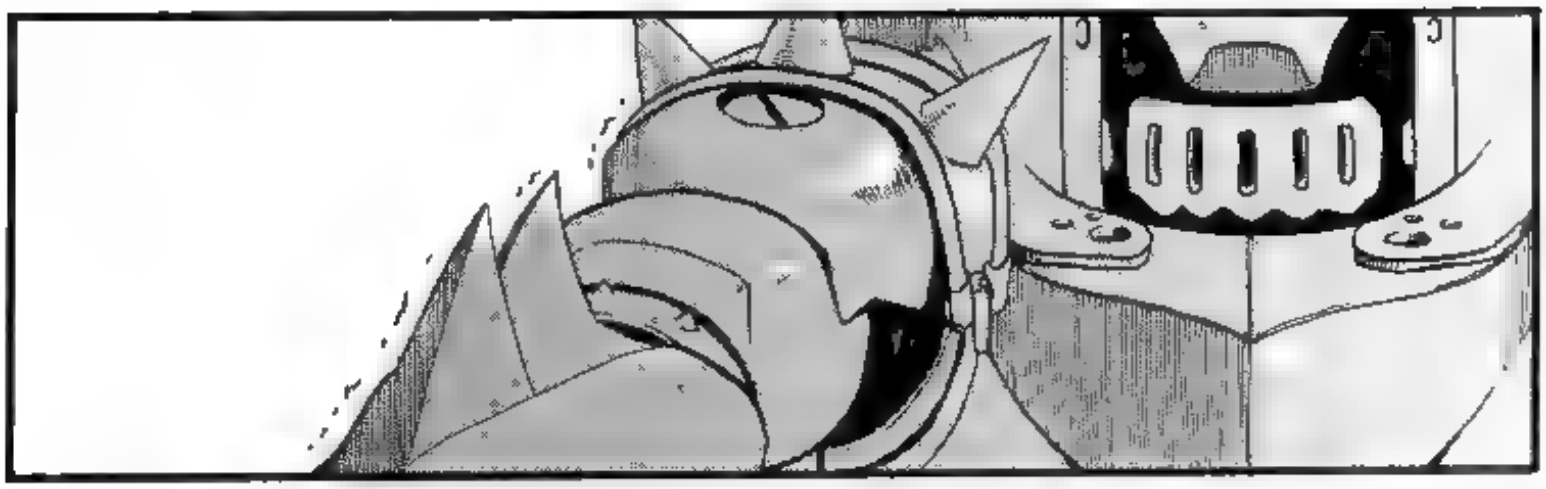

YOU OKAY ?

?
SEE YOU BACK THERE, THEN.

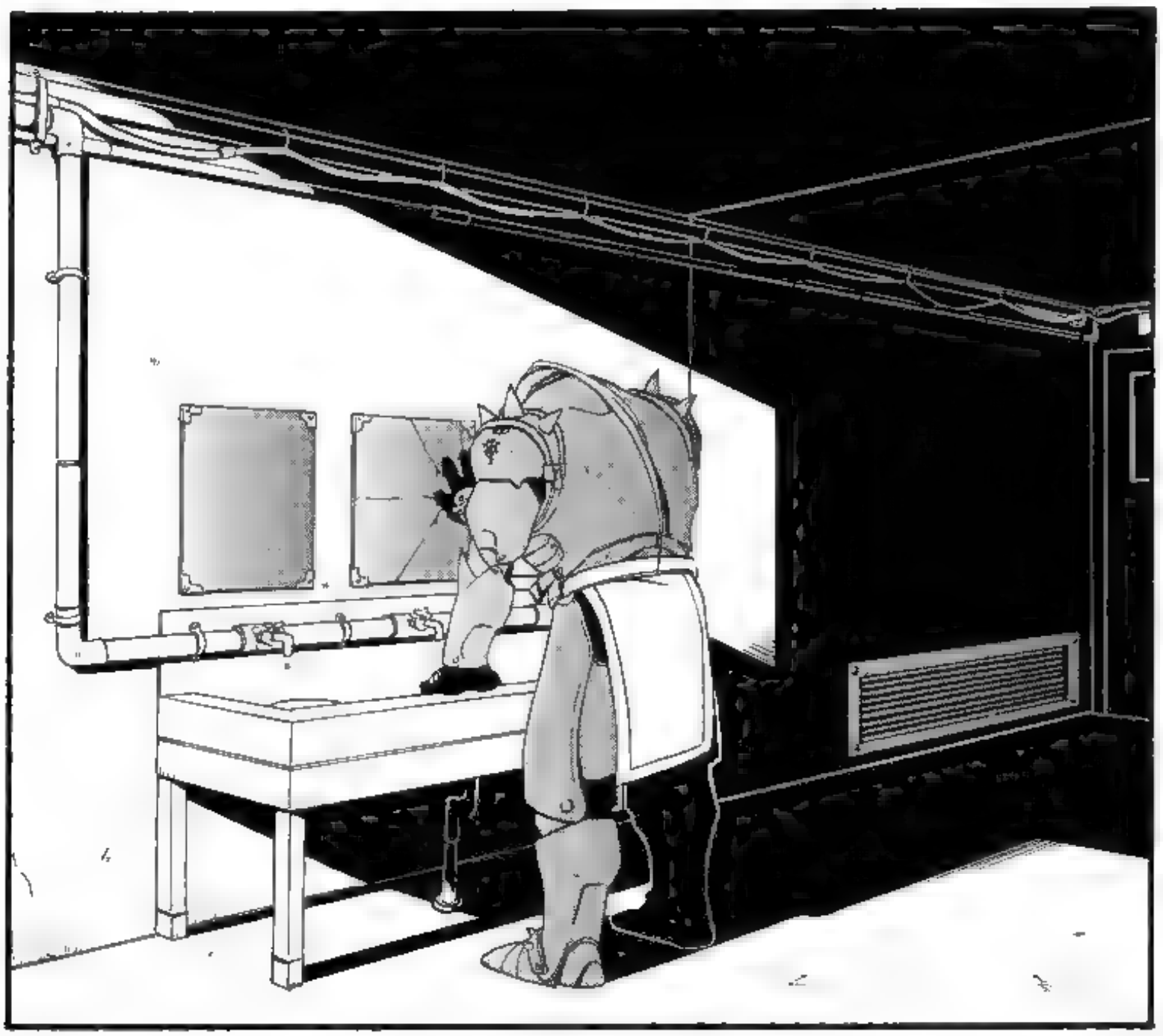
TURN
... IT'S... IT'S NOTHING.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

WHAT IF YOUR PERSONALITY AND MEMORIES WERE ALL FABRICATED BY YOUR "BIG BROTHER"

JUST ACCEPT IT. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER THAT WAY.



KRAK



FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

Chapter 14:
An Only Child's Feelings

CHOOO--!

OWWWW ~~~~~

MY BUTT HURTS FROM SITTING DOWN SO LONG.

HOW CAN THOSE TWO RIDE ON THESE THINGS ALL THE TIME?

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN CENTRAL...

IT'S *HIM*..

OH.

ED TOLD ME THAT THERE'D BE SOMEONE WAITING FOR ME AT THE STATION WHO I'D RECOGNIZE RIGHT AWAY. BUT WHO...?

OH, MISS ROCKBELL !

MAJOR ARM-STRONG !

OH, IT WAS NOTHING. THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF THE IDIOTIC ELRIC BROTHERS.

THANK ***YOU*** AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP IN RESEM-BOOL.

WELCOME TO
CENTRAL CI
WEST GATE
I CAN'T BELIEVE ED HAULED ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE AND DIDN'T EVEN COME TO PICK ME UP!
THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED, MISS.
IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION HE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE.
TAKEN IN ?!
HE'S BEEN TAKEN IN.
HOW SHALL I PUT IT...?
HE WOULDN'T TELL ME WHY.
THAT'S JUST IT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "CAN'T GO ANY-WHERE"?
HE WASN'T TAKEN IN THERE.
I KNEW IT...
SHCCP
SO ..HE FINALLY CROSSED THE LINE AND WAS SENT TO JUVENILE HALL..
THE HOSPITAL?
HUH...?

DEH HEH

MY DAUGHTER'S GONNA BE THREE YEARS OLD!

LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING!

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES...

I'M AT WORK RIGHT NOW.

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE-- I AM, TOO!

BLAH BLAH

OKAY, OKAY. I GET IT! SO STOP CALLING ME EVERY TIME YOU WANT TO BRAG ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER! AND QUIT USING THE MILITARY'S PRIVATE LINE!

YEAH, EVERY DAY I JUST THINK TO MYSELF HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE SUCH A CUTE DAUGHTER!

I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO INCINERATE SOMEONE OVER THE PHONE... CARE TO HELP ME FIND OUT, HUGHES?

THE NERVE!

I'M NOT JUST PROUD OF MY DAUGHTER! I'M PROUD OF MY WIFE, TOO!

HE'S SO MESSED UP THAT IT'S HARD TO TELL.

HE'S STILL AT LARGE. THE EXPLOSION WAS SO LARGE, NUMEROUS BODIES HAVE TURNED UP. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HIS MIGHT BE AMONG THOSE THAT WERE FOUND.

WOULDN'T THAT BE A RELIEF.

IS THIS HIM?

SPEAKING OF ALCHEMISTS, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SCAR?

WHOA, I'M SHAKING IN MY BOOTS, MR. FLAME ALCHEMIST.

THEY'RE IN CENTRAL. I'LL LEAVE IT TO WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE THERE TO DECIDE.

SO, WILL THE ELRIC BROTHERS' GUARDS BE DISMISSED?

THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS IN THE EAST AREA SINCE THE INCIDENT, SO THE MAJORITY OPINION IS THAT HE'S DEAD.

HM...

THE GUYS FROM COMMAND WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE STATE ALCHEMISTS HAVE BEEN KILLED OFF. THEY'RE A LITTLE SHORT-STAFFED IN THAT DEPARTMENT RIGHT NOW.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

SOUNDS LIKE COLONEL MUSTANG'S INVITATION TO CENTRAL MIGHT COME SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

YOU'LL MAKE A LOT OF ENEMIES IF YOU JOIN MILITARY COMMAND AT YOUR AGE.

BUT WATCH OUT.

I'M PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.

CENTRAL, HUH?

THAT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE AROUND YOU AS POSSIBLE THAT UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT YOU.

COLONEL, PLEASE BE GENTLER WHEN HANGING UP THE PHONE.

SLAM

WILL YOU SHUT UP ?!

SO HURRY UP AND GET A WIFE!

WHAT? ARE YOU JEALOUS, TOO?

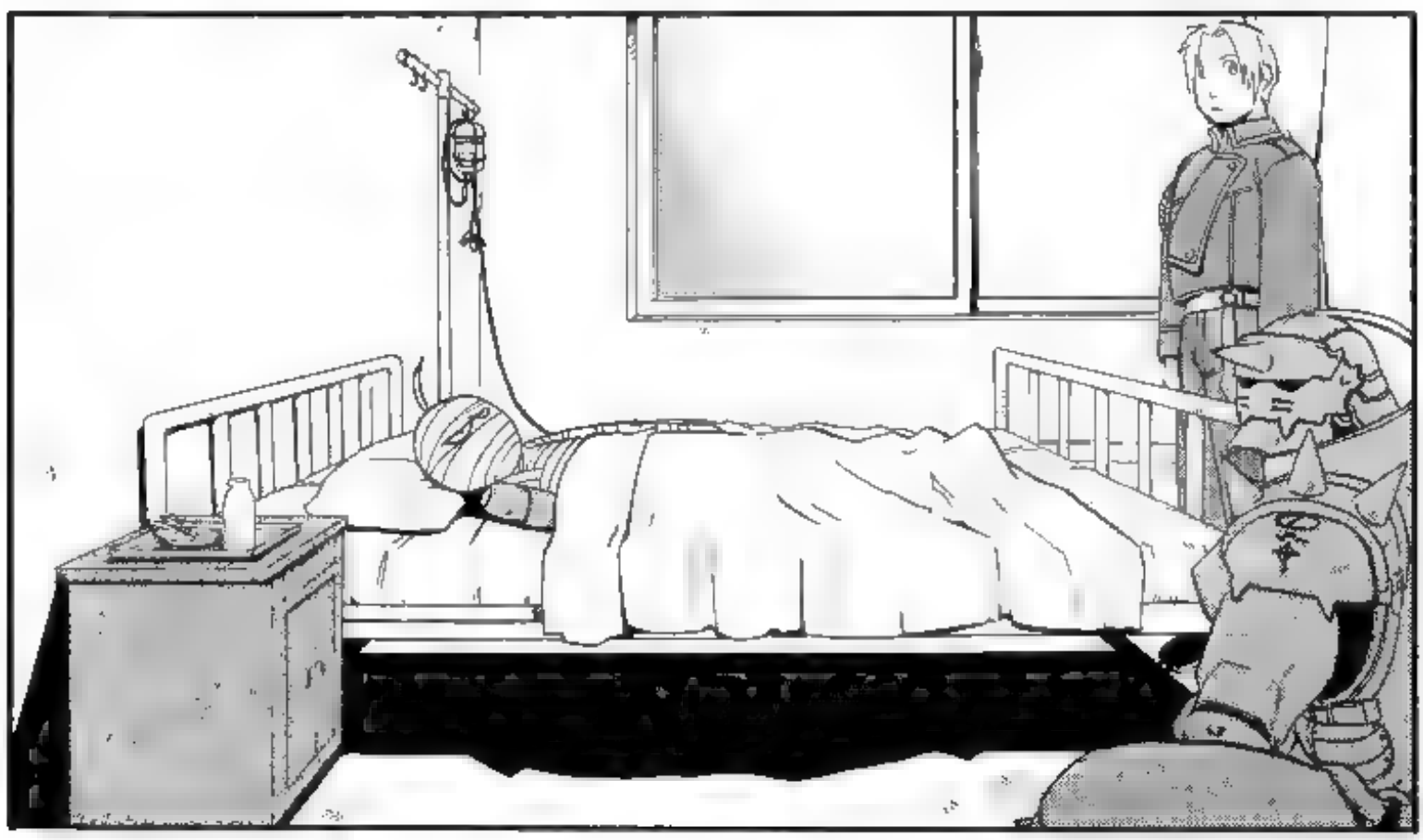
LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES...WAS THAT ANOTHER PERSONAL PHONE CALL TO BRAG ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

CRUNCH
IT'S EMBARRASSING JUST LISTENING TO YOU.
PLEASE DON'T USE THE MILITARY'S PRIVATE LINE FOR YOUR PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS...
LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES, 3420...
NO, I DO NOT!
WANNA SEE SOME PHOTOS? WANNA SEE?
MY DAUGHTER'S GONNA BE THREE YEARS OLD.

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A SALARY CUT TO DAMPEN MY LOVE. HA HA HA HA!
T-D
IF THE HIGHER-UPS WERE TO LISTEN IN ON YOUR CALLS, THEY'D CUT YOUR SALARY!

OH WELL.
SKRICH SKRICH
I FORGOT TO TELL ROY ABOUT ED BEING HOSPITALIZED.
OH...

OH MY GOD !



ED
!!

WELL, ORIGINALLY I WAS ONLY HURT ABOUT HALF AS BAD AS I AM NOW BUT...

THUNK

NO ONE TOLD ME YOU WERE HURT THIS BADLY!

HUG

AAAGH!

CRACK

GUSH

SQUIRT

SNAP

OH, EDWARD ELRIC! I WAS SO **WORRIED** ABOUT YOU!

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

BAM

WHAT?! HE WAS SEVERELY INJURED WHEN HE SNUCK INTO LABORATORY 5?!

...THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

SHEESH... DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT.

WHAT ARE YOU TELLING *ME* FOR? TELL IT TO *HIM*!!

DAMMIT. THANKS TO HIM, I'M STUCK IN THE HOSPITAL EVEN LONGER.

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT TRAINING YOURSELF HARD ENOUGH.

YOU CAN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE A MATCH FOR ***YOU***, MAJOR!

BUT...

EVEN WITHOUT THE WOUNDS INFLICTED BY THE MAJOR, YOUR INJURIES ARE STILL REALLY SEVERE.

THIS IS NOTHING.

WOUNDS LIKE THESE HEAL QUICK.

IT'S ALL *MY* FAULT FOR NOT BEING THOROUGH ENOUGH WHEN I BUILT IT

...YOU WERE HURT BECAUSE YOUR AUTO-MAIL FAILED YOU.

WHAT ?

?

SILENCE.....

EH?

EH?

EH?

HUH?

IT...IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, WINRY!

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE COULD BE SO *CUTE*.

IS THAT WHAT SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ?

AND EVERY-THING TURNED OUT FINE?

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! ALL RIGHT?!!

PLUS, WHEN MY ARM BROKE, IT KEPT ME FROM GETTING EVEN *MORE* BEAT UP!

HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE MISSING BOLT?

YOUR WORK WAS FLAWLESS AS USUAL!

FIRST OF ALL, THE REASON IT BROKE WAS BECAUSE I WAS TOO ROUGH ON IT!

AND TO DO THAT YOU NEED PLENTY OF *NUTRITIOUS FOOD* AND *REST.*

I KNOW!

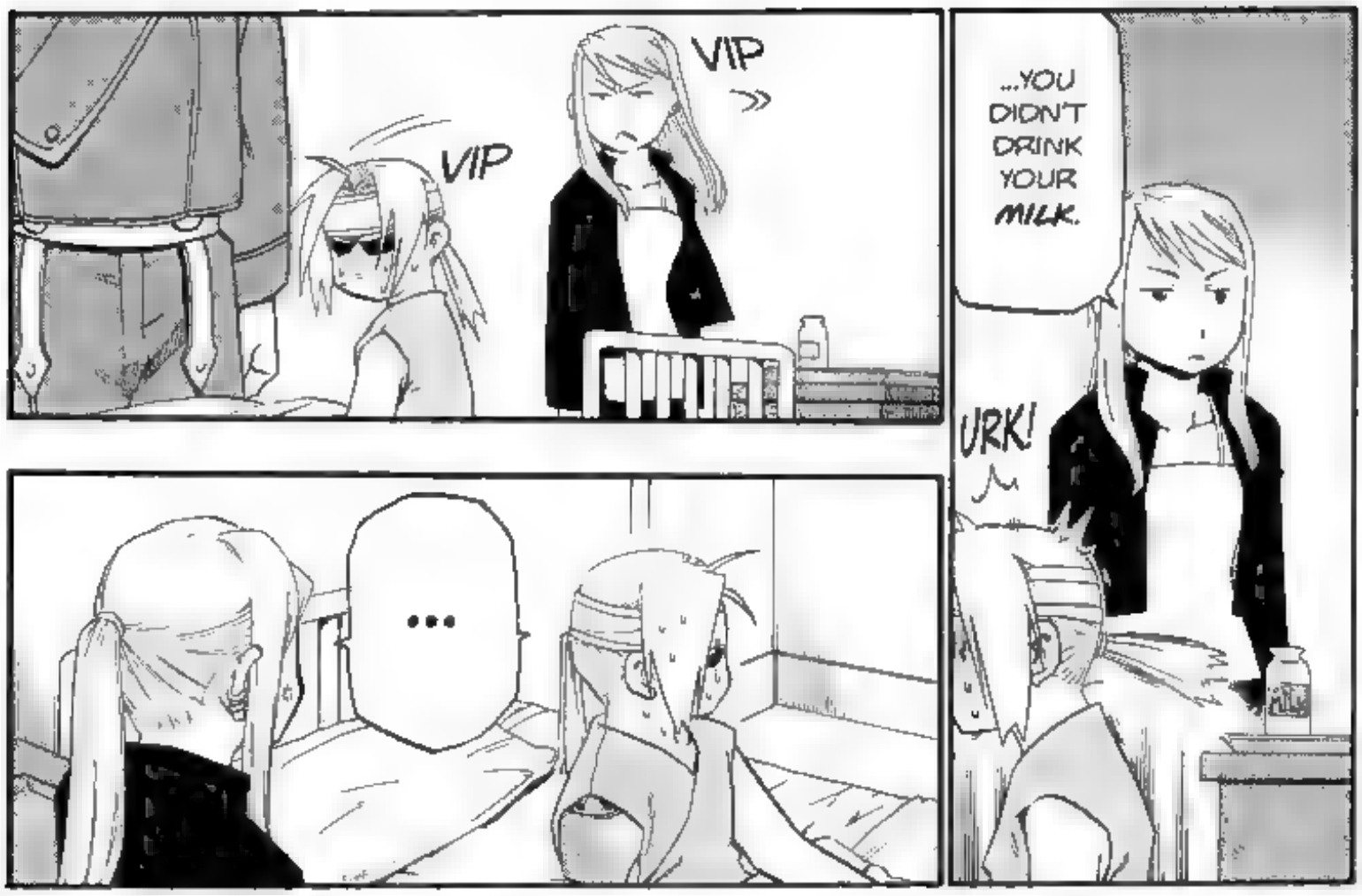
SHE'S NOT CUTE AT ALL!!

YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! OKAY THEN, LET'S TALK ABOUT MY FEE FOR COMING OUT HERE TO MAKE REPAIRS!

ZI ING

HRM! DON'T GET SO EXCITED, EDWARD ELRIC. YOU MUST TAKE IT EASY AND NURSE YOURSELF BACK TO HEALTH.

LIKE YOU SHOULD TALK



MY APOLOGIES TO ALL THE DAIRY FARMERS.

FINE! THEN I'LL JUST GET MY NUTRIENTS FROM SOME OTHER SOURCE THAN MILK!!

IN ORDER TO REGAIN YOUR LOST STAMINA, YOU NEED **NUTRIENTS** !!

CLACK

MILK IS NOT A NUTRITIONALLY COMPLETE FOOD SOURCE !!

WHAT DID YOU SAY ?!

THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER GET ANY TALLER !!

AL ?

?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHEN YOU LEFT OUR SHOP YOU SAID, "ONCE I GET MY OLD BODY BACK, I'M NOT GONNA NEED GRANNY OR WINRY ANYMORE!"

BUT YOU STILL HAVE THE AUTO-MAIL. NO LUCK WITH THE STONE, HUH?

SHUT UP! THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF THAT'S GETTING IN OUR WAY!

AL'S GONNA HAVE TO STAY THE WAY HE IS, TOO...

IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE STUCK WITH THIS AUTO-MAIL FOR A WHILE.

AL'S... BEEN ACTING KIND OF *STRANGE* LATELY.

STRANGE ?

YEAH, HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH. IT'S LIKE HE'S LOST IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS.

hmm

...I WONDER WHAT'S BOTHERING HIM?

PLEASE. AS IF HE'D BE IN SHOCK OVER SUCH A LITTLE THING. HE'S NOT *THAT* WIMPY.

OH !

MAYBE HE'S IN SHOCK FROM WHEN I PUNCHED HIM?!

DON'T COMPARE HIM WITH YOU, YOU LOVE-OBSESSED FREAK

I THINK HE'S LOVE-SICK!

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH HIM AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S WRONG. HOW WOULD I KNOW?

SO YOU CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT EITHER, HUH, WINRY?

HM?

THANKS.

"LOVE-OBSESSED"

OKAY! THE REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE!

YEAH, YEAH.

NOW YOU HAVE TO LET THE REST OF YOUR BODY HEAL.

FWAP FWAP

YES! GOOD AS NEW! RIGHT ON!

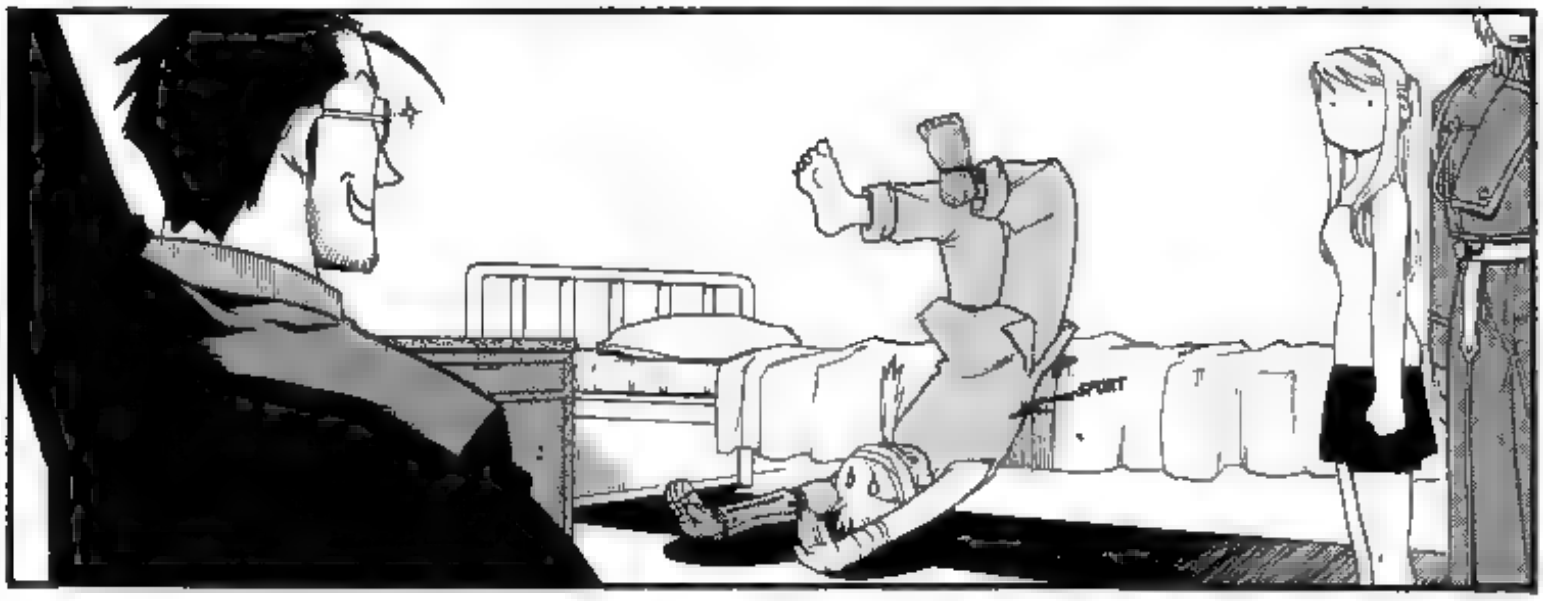
TA

DA!

I HEARD YOU SNUCK A GIRL INTO YOUR ROOM !

HEY, ED!

PFT!



YOUR WOUNDS WILL OPEN UP IF YOU DON'T WATCH IT.

...HE SAYS SOME-THING ELSE !!

IF I SAY ONE THING...

...!

SO, YOU HOOKED UP WITH YOUR MECHANIC, HUH?

NOT TOO SHABBY SPROUT !!

SHE'S JUST MY AUTO-MAIL MECHANIC !!

MAES HUGHES, NICE TO MEET YOU.

HI, I'M WINRY ROCK-BELL.

SIGH...

WINRY, THIS GUY IS LT. COLONEL HUGHES.

HM..

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION HAS BEEN SO BUSY LATELY THAT YOU CAN'T GET TIME OFF?

DON'T WORRY !!

HEH HEH HEH. I HAVE THE AFTERNOON OFF!

ISN'T THERE SOME WORK YOU SHOULD BE DOING?

IT'S TRUE THAT I WANTED TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING ON MY TIME OFF, BUT THERE'S ONE OTHER REASON I DROPPED BY.

I JUST GOT SOME NEWS ABOUT THE ***SCAR INCIDENT.***

I MADE SHESKA WORK OVER-TIME!

YOU'RE AN EVIL, EVIL MAN.

HUH ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO YOU IF WE HADN'T BEEN AROUND?

HEY! THAT'S HARSH.

ALL RIGHT! I CAN FINALLY GET THESE ANNOYING ***CHAPE-RONES*** OFF MY BACK!

YOUR BODYGUARDS ARE GOING TO BE DISMISSED SOON.

REALLY ?!

UH !!

N-NOTHING, REALLY! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

BODY-GUARDS...? WHAT KIND OF DANGER HAVE YOU BEEN IN?!

YOU AND YOUR BROTHER NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW NICELY I ASK.

FIG-URES.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL .

I HAVE TO GO FIND A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

HEY! WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY AT *MY* PLACE!?

MILITARY HOTEL, HUH? SOUNDS A LITTLE TOO STRICT FOR MY TASTES.

YOU CAN STAY AT THE MILITARY HOTEL FOR CHEAP IF YOU TELL THEM THAT I SENT YOU.

"WAHAHAHA!"

WAIT A SEC!

DRAG

DRAG DRAG

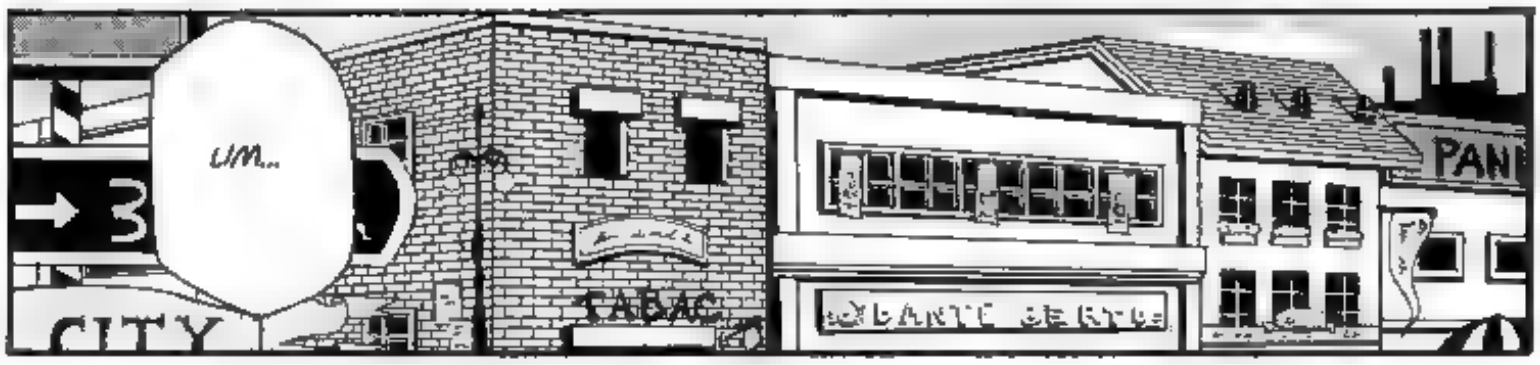
HE'S ACTING LIKE A KIDNAPPER AGAIN.

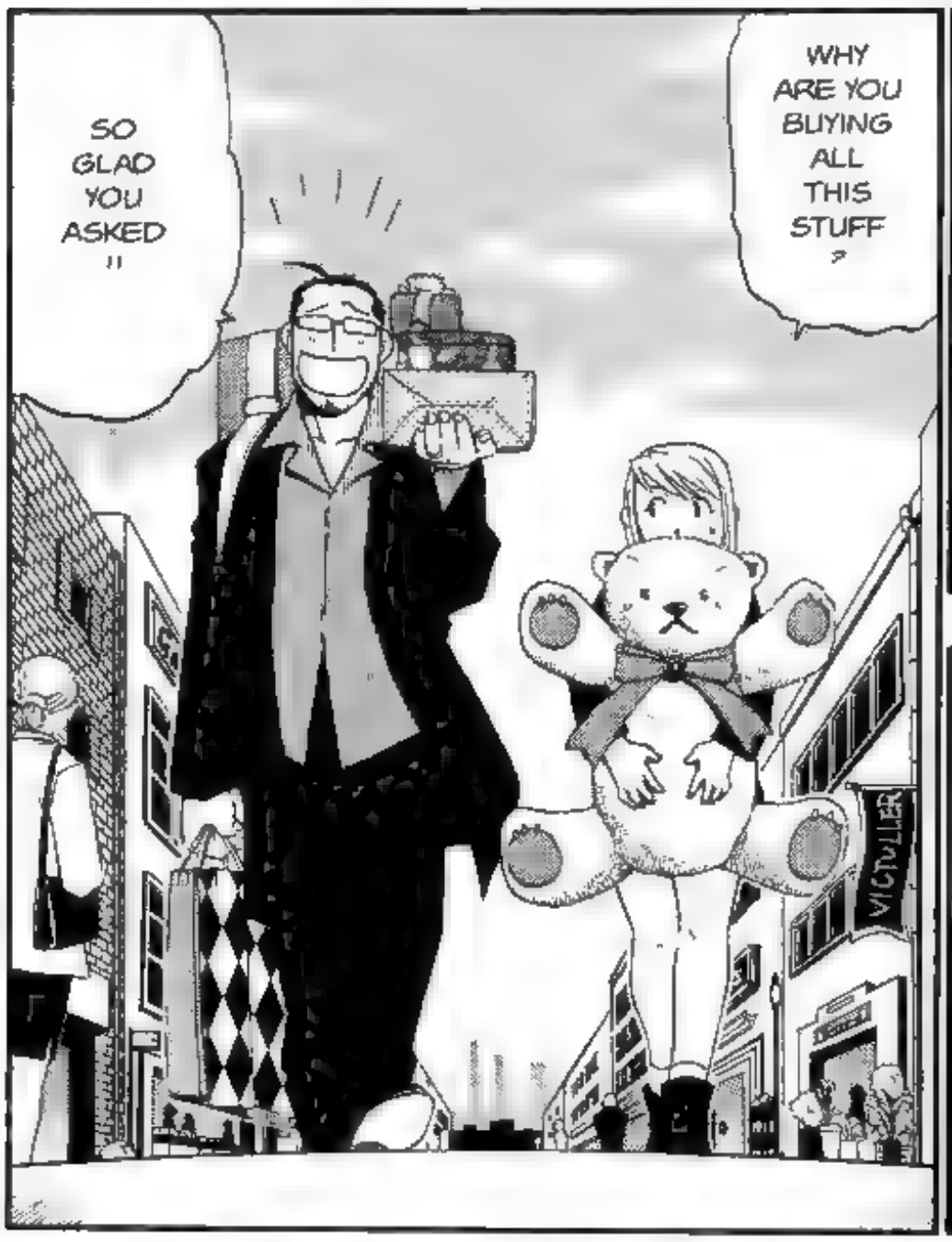
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! MY FAMILY WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!

BUT I JUST MET YOU AND IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME TO INCON-VENIENCE YOU...

HUH? UM...

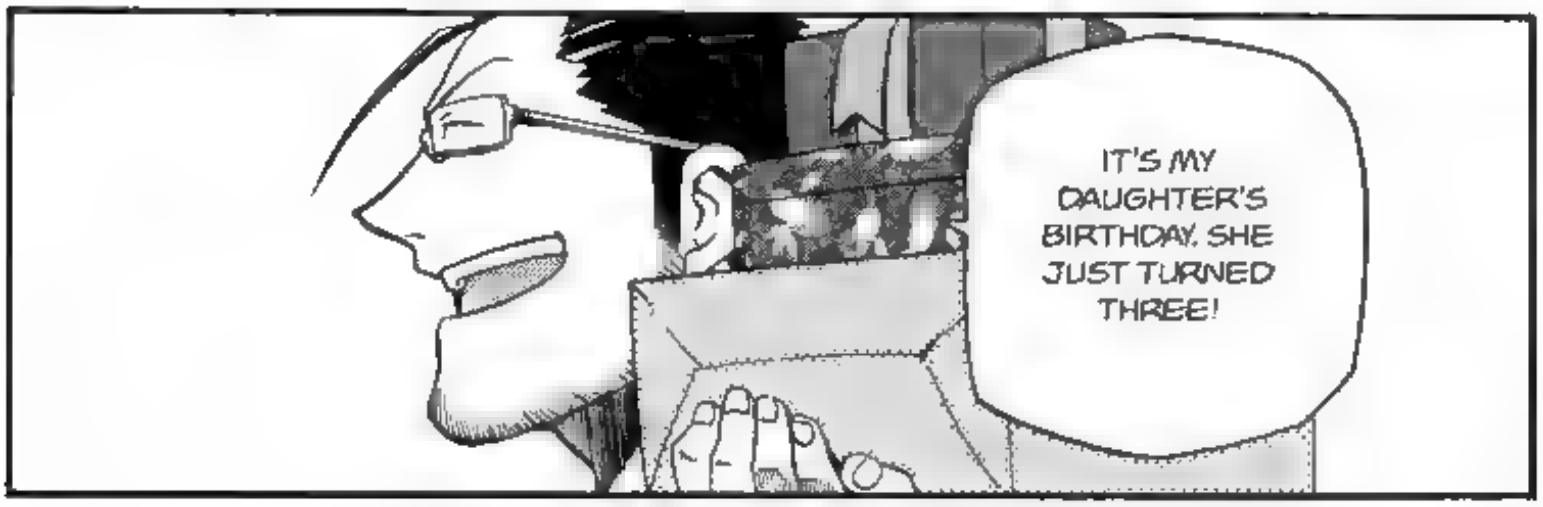
GREAT. NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THAT FIGURED OUT, LET'S GO!


UM...
CITY
CAFAC
PAN


SO GLAD YOU ASKED !!
WHY ARE YOU BUYING ALL THIS STUFF ?
VICTOLLER

MR HUGHES...?

YES ?


IT'S MY DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY. SHE JUST TURNED THREE!

NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE

ELICIA, I MISSED YOU *SO MUCH* ♡!

NUZZLE

NOOOO, PAPA! YOUR BEARD TICKLES!

OH MY. WHAT A CUTE GUEST WE HAVE.

WELCOME HOME, PAPA!

SHE WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP FOR THE NIGHT SO I BROUGHT HER HERE.

THIS IS WINRY, AN OLD FRIEND OF THEIRS FROM CHILD-HOOD.

UH HUH.

REMEMBER THE ELRIC BROTHERS I TOLD YOU ABOUT?

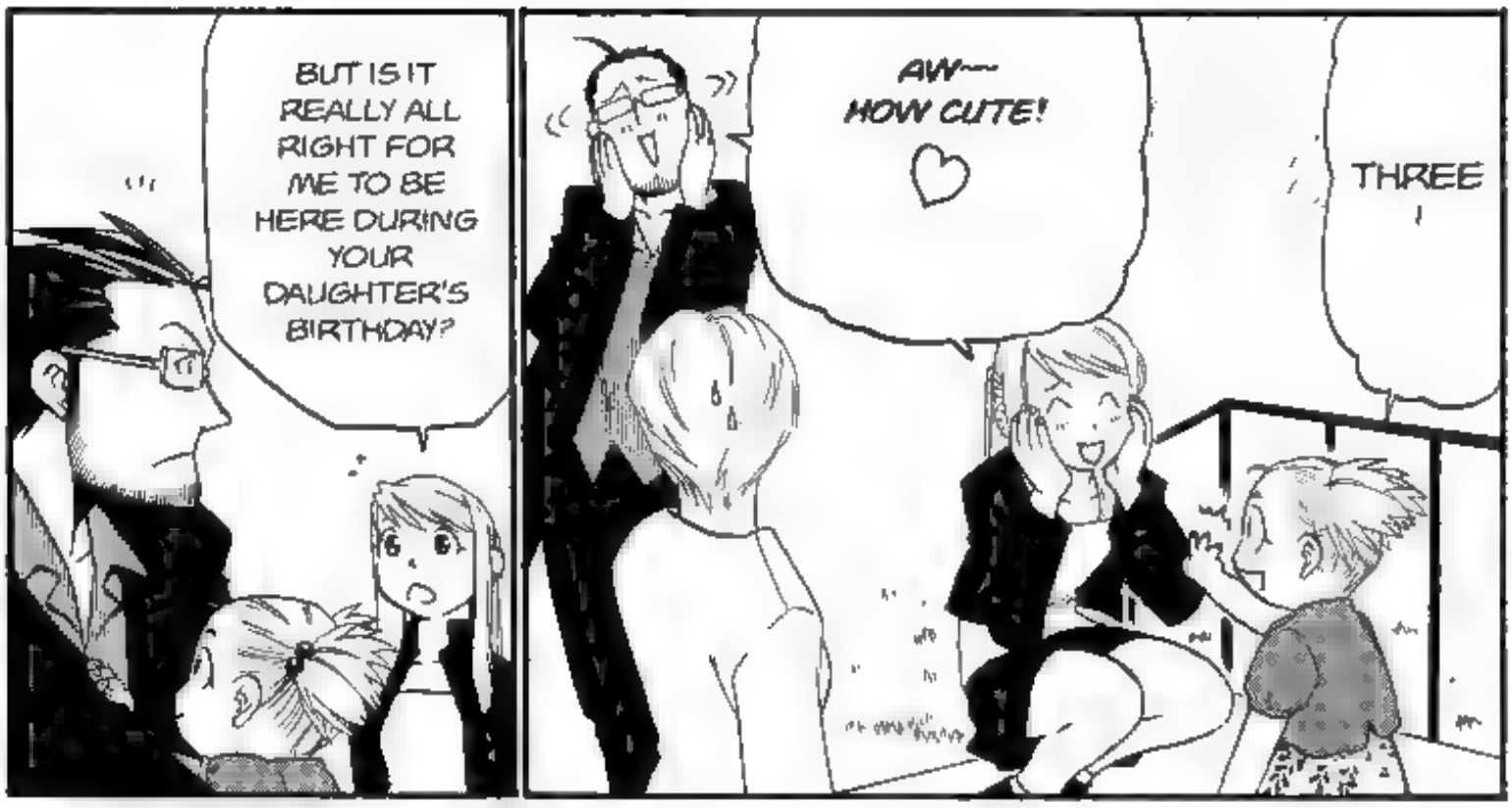
TW...

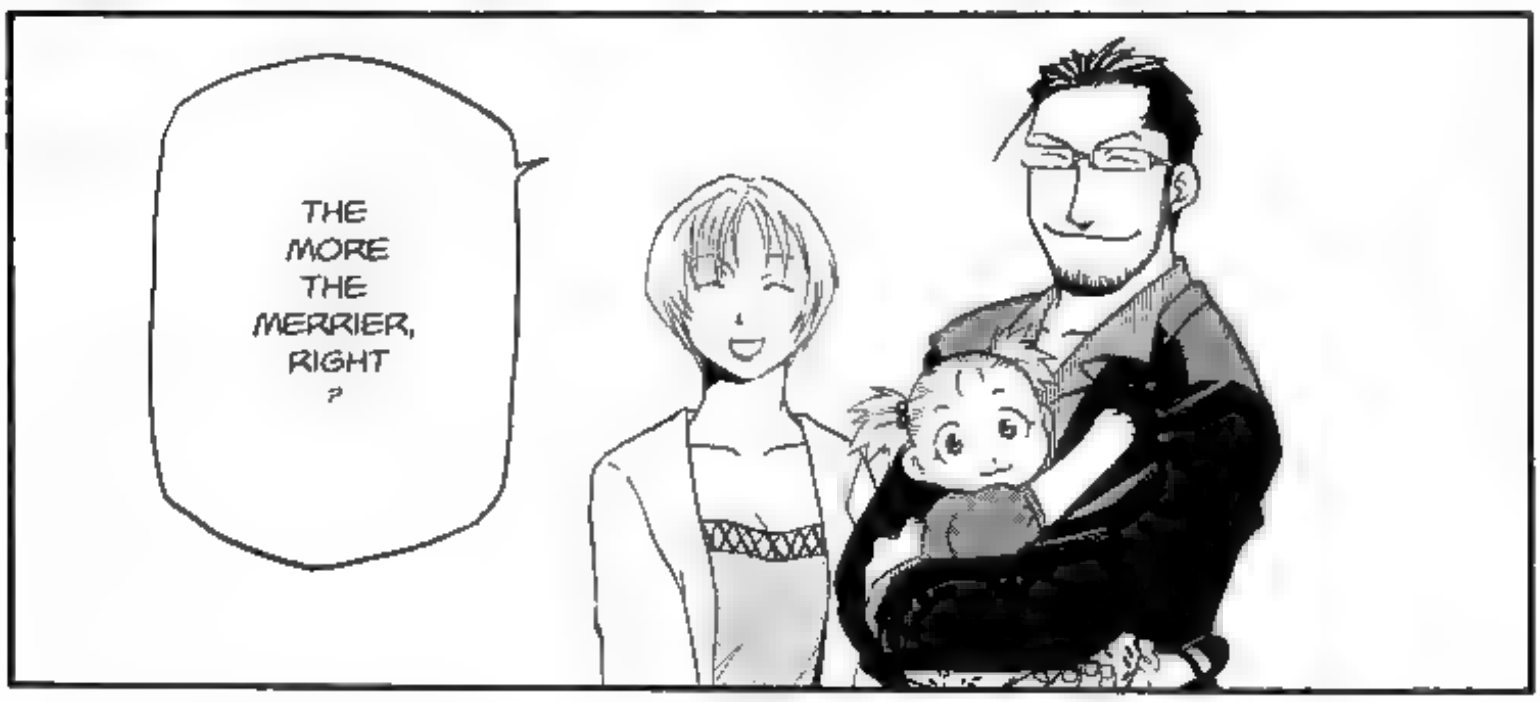
HOW OLD ARE YOU, ELICIA?

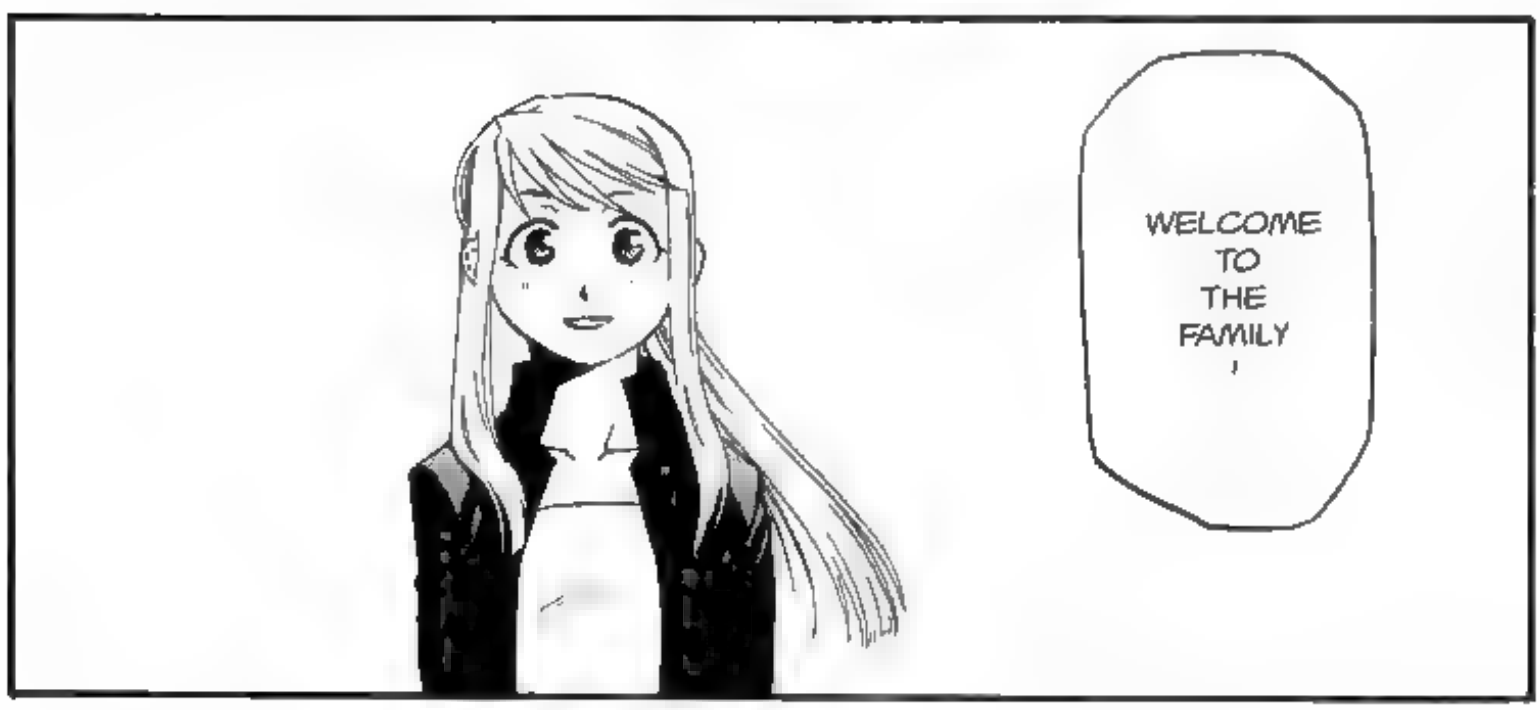
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY.

THIS IS MY WIFE *GRACIA* AND MY DAUGHTER *ELICIA*.

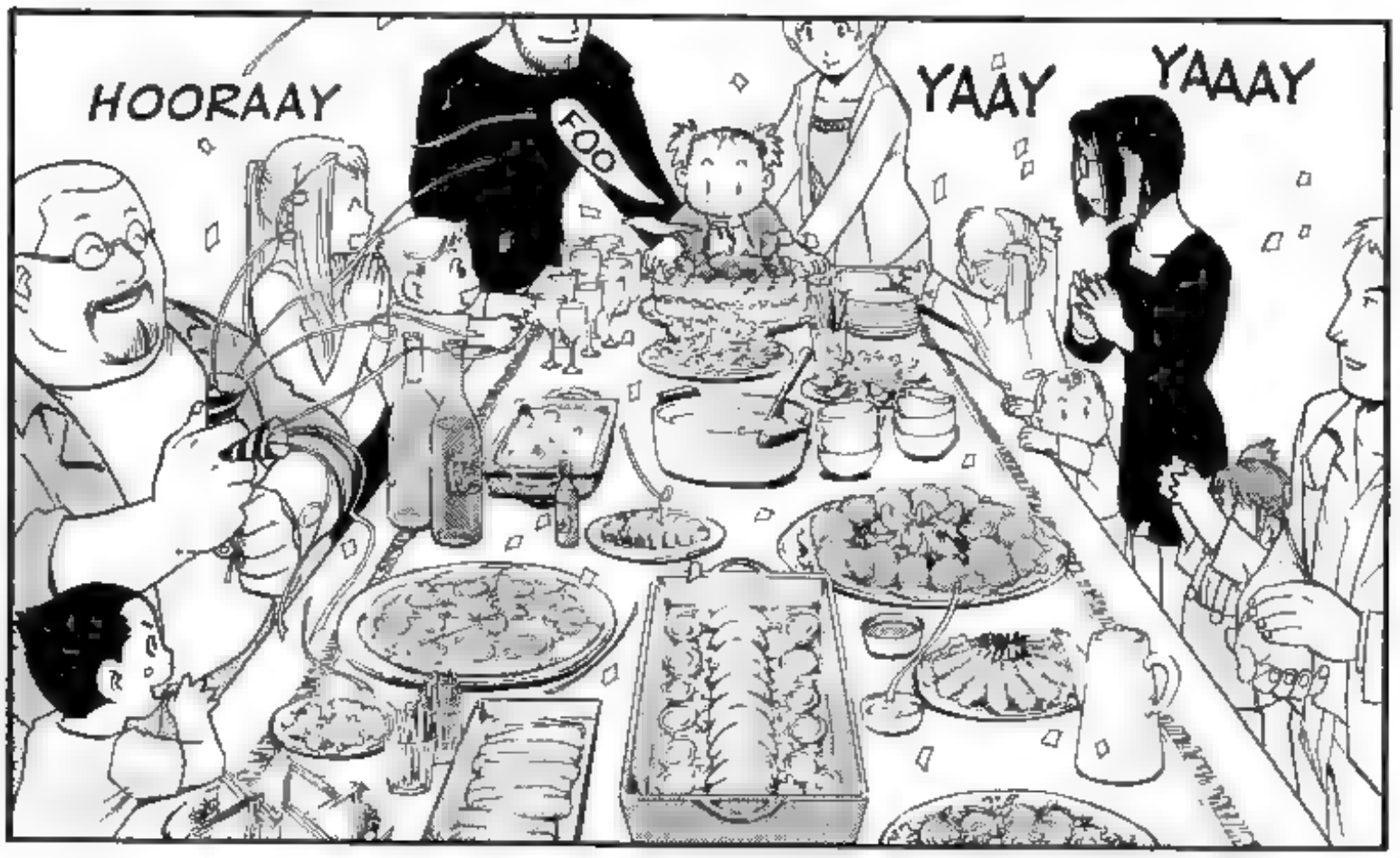
IT'S OUR PLEASURE, DEAR. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

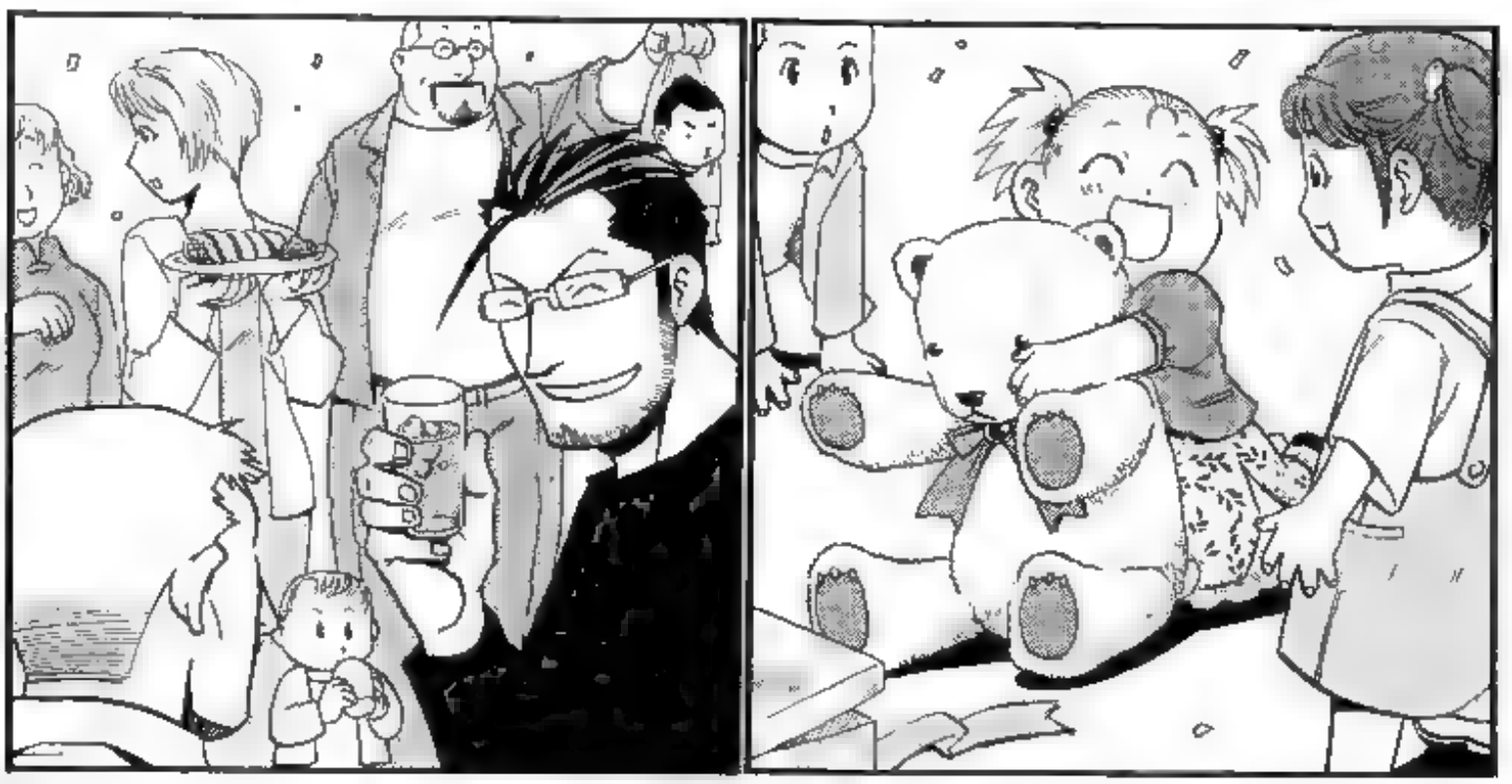

BUT IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO BE HERE DURING YOUR DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY?
AW~~ HOW CUTE!
THREE!

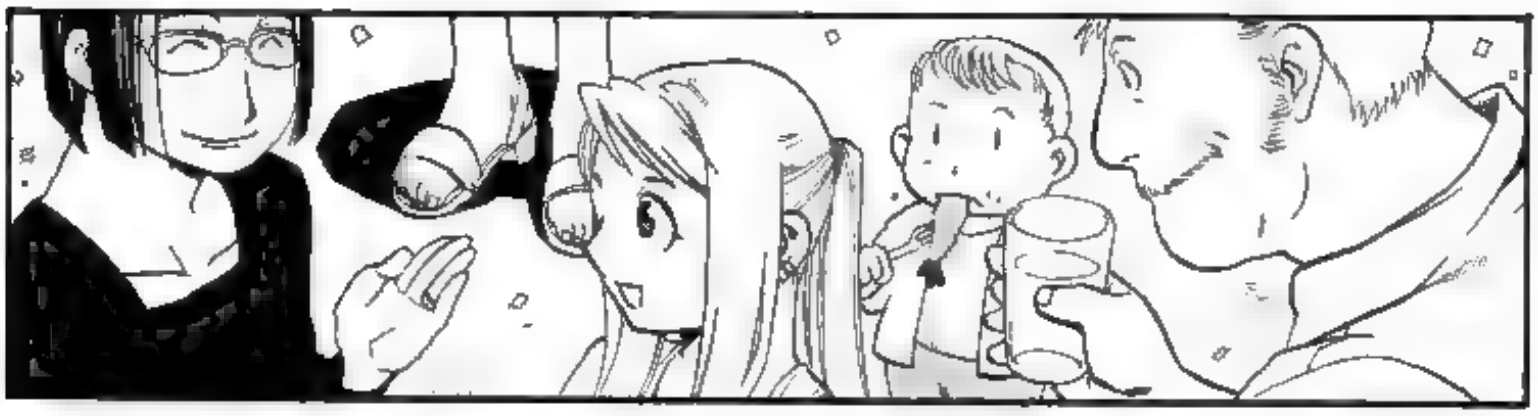

THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?


WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!
ELICIA !


HOORAAY
FOO
YAAY
YAAAY

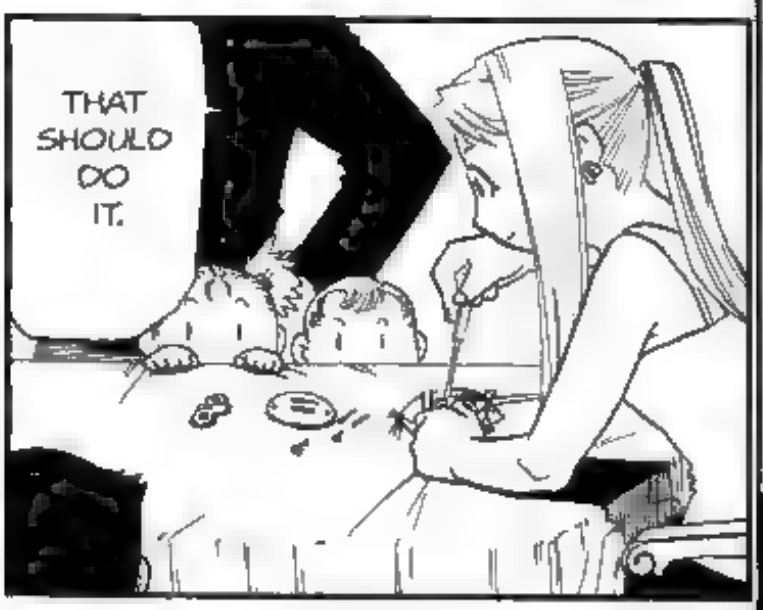


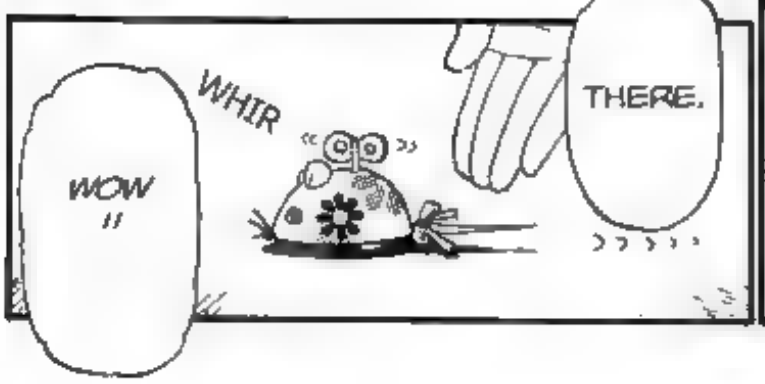


HUH? I WONDER IF IT'S DEFECTIVE?
THE MOUSIE YOU GAVE ME ISN'T MOVING.

PAPA, PAPA!

YUP. THE GEARS ARE OUT OF ALIGN-MENT.


THAT SHOULD DO IT.


WOW!!
WHIR
THERE.

CAN I SEE THAT FOR A SECOND, ELICIA?

WOW!

YOU'RE A *TOY DOCTOR*!

AH HA HA! NOT REALLY, BUT YOU'RE CLOSE.

HM...NOT TOO SHABBY.

WHOA! COOL!!

WHIR

YOU'RE HIS MECHANIC, RIGHT?

YEAH. WE WERE BOTH BORN IN RESEMBOOL AND OUR HOUSES WERE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER.

WAHAHAH...

KNOWING ED, HE MUST HAVE CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE, HUH?

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE SO HE'S LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.

HE'LL COME BACK EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE AND HIS ARM WILL BE COMPLETELY TRASHED.

NOT REALLY *TROUBLE*, BUT HE DOES MAKE ME *WORRY* A LOT.

AND AL SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT ON HIS MIND, TOO.

I CAME OUT HERE TODAY TO FIX HIS ARM– I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND HIM HOSPITALIZED WITH SEVERE INJURIES.

IT MAKES ME WONDER WHAT KIND OF LIVES THEY LEAD.

NOT ONLY THAT BUT HIS WHOLE BODY WAS COVERED WITH WOUNDS.

...THAT I MADE THAT BRAND-NEW AUTO-MAIL FOR ED, AND WHEN I SAW IT TODAY IT WAS IN REALLY BAD SHAPE.

IT WAS JUST TWO WEEKS AGO...

THEY DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHEN THEY DECIDED TO LEAVE TOWN TO GET THEIR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK.

BUT THEY NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

...THEY MIGHT HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT THEIR JOURNEY AND ABOUT WHAT CAUSED HIS WOUNDS.

MAYBE IF WE WERE A REAL FAMILY...

IT'S NOT THAT THEY DIDN'T ***WANT*** TO TELL YOU SO MUCH AS THEY DIDN'T THINK THAT THERE WAS A ***NEED*** TO TELL YOU.

MEN EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR ACTIONS MORE THAN THEIR WORDS.

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

THEY MUST HAVE ASSUMED YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WITHOUT THEM HAVING TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, WINRY.

...THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT I NEED TO BE ***TOLD*** IN ORDER FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S WHY THEY WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

...THAN CAUSE THEIR LOVED ONES TO WORRY.

THEY WOULD RATHER SHOULDER THEIR PAIN THEM-SELVES...

ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

...THAT'S WHEN THEY'LL NEED YOU TO BE THERE FOR THEM.

WHEN THEY DECIDE TO TELL YOU THEIR TROUBLES...

TWITCH

AH HA HA! YOUR DAUGHTER'S REALLY POPULAR.

NUH-UH! ELICIA'S GONNA PLAY WITH *ME*.

NO, WITH *ME*!

LET'S PLAY!

ELICIA!

THERE'S SUCH A THING AS BEING ***TOO*** PROTECTIVE, MR. HUGHES!!

KA-CHAK

DON'T EVEN ***THINK*** ABOUT PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON MY DAUGHTER!

WATCH IT, YOU LITTLE PUNKS.

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY? YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, YOU KNOW.

THANKS, REALLY, BUT YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH ALREADY. I'LL FIND MY OWN LODGINGS FOR THE NIGHT...

GRAB

TUG

ELICIA !

SQUEEEEEEZE

WA HA HA HA!

YOU TWO ALMOST LOOK LIKE *SISTERS.*

SHE'S REALLY TAKEN TO YOU...

UH...
?

I GUESS YOU FOUND YOUR LODGINGS FOR TONIGHT.

SEE YA LATER.

HURRY BACK HOME, 'KAY?

IT'S ALMOST LIKE I HAVE A SISTER NOW. YOU MAKE ME SO HAPPY!

HEH HEH.

SNAP
KRAK
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN, YOU BASTARD ?!
UGH..
I'M NOT DRINKING IT AND THAT'S *FINAL!*
AW, MAN! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT MILK ANYWAY?
DO ME A FAVOR, AL, AND DRINK IT FOR ME.
OH...BUT I GUESS YOU CAN'T SINCE YOU HAVE THAT BODY...
...BIG BROTHER, YOU STILL HAVE MOST OF YOUR REAL BODY—YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF IT. JUST DRINK IT.

AND BESIDES, I'M NOT GONNA *DIE* JUST BECAUSE I DON'T DRINK *MILK!*

I WON'T DRINK WHAT I DON'T LIKE!

BUT EVERYONE KEEPS CALLING ME *SMALL!*

MORNING!

I KNOW IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT, BUT I *AM* GROWING.

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE A *BIG* BODY.

YOU KNOW, AL...

CLACK

I NEVER ASKED FOR THIS DAMN BODY !!

Chapter 15:
Fullmetal Heart

FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST

I...

I'M SORRY, AL.

I NEVER ASKED...

...FOR THIS DAMN BODY !!

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO GET YOU BACK TO NORMAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

...YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S ***MY*** FAULT THAT ALL OF THIS HAPPENED.

IS THERE REALLY ANY GUARANTEE THAT WE CAN GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO ***BELIEVE*** IN THIS EMPTY SHELL OF A BODY!!?

"BELIEVE" YOU!!?

I'LL GET YOU BACK TO NORMAL. YOU'VE JUST GOTTA ***BELIEVE*** ME!

BUT HAS ANYONE EVER ***VERIFIED*** THAT IN AN ***EXPER-IMENT*** !?

ACCORDING TO ALCHEMIC THEORY, HUMAN BEINGS ARE COMPOSED OF A ***PHYSICAL BODY, MIND*** AND ***SOUL!***

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AL...?

IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARTIFICIALLY CONSTRUCT THEM.

MEMORIES ARE NOTHING BUT DATA, WHEN YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT.

MAYBE WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME WAS THAT MY SOUL AND MY MEMORIES ARE ALL ***FAKE*** AND THAT THEY WERE CREATED ***ARTIFICIALLY***.

YOU TOLD ME ONCE THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT YOU WERE TOO AFRAID TO TELL ME.

!

SO, "BIG BROTHER," WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ***THAT*** !!?

ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT WINRY, GRANNY AND EVERYONE ELSE IS ***LYING*** TO ME!!?

WELL, "BIG BROTHER"? CAN YOU ***PROVE*** THAT A PERSON NAMED ALPHONSE ELRIC REALLY EXISTED!?

SLAM

YOU WERE...

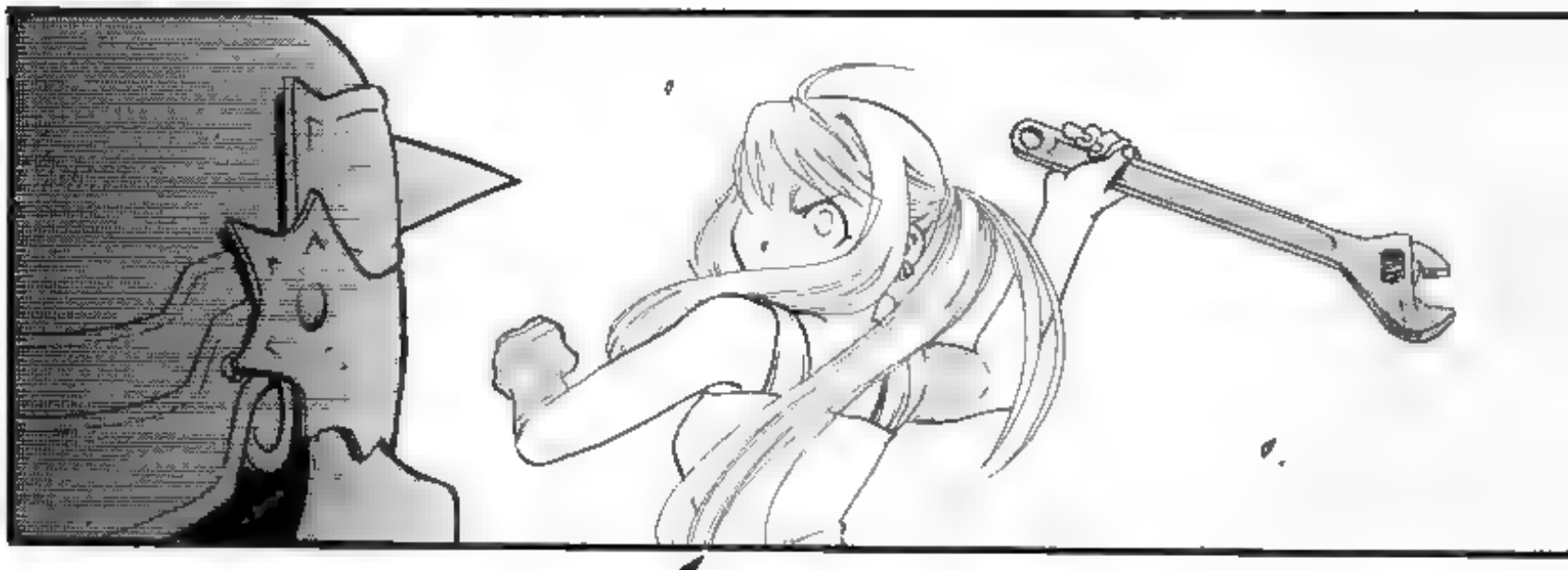
...KEEPING ALL THAT BOTTLED UP THIS WHOLE TIME?

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?

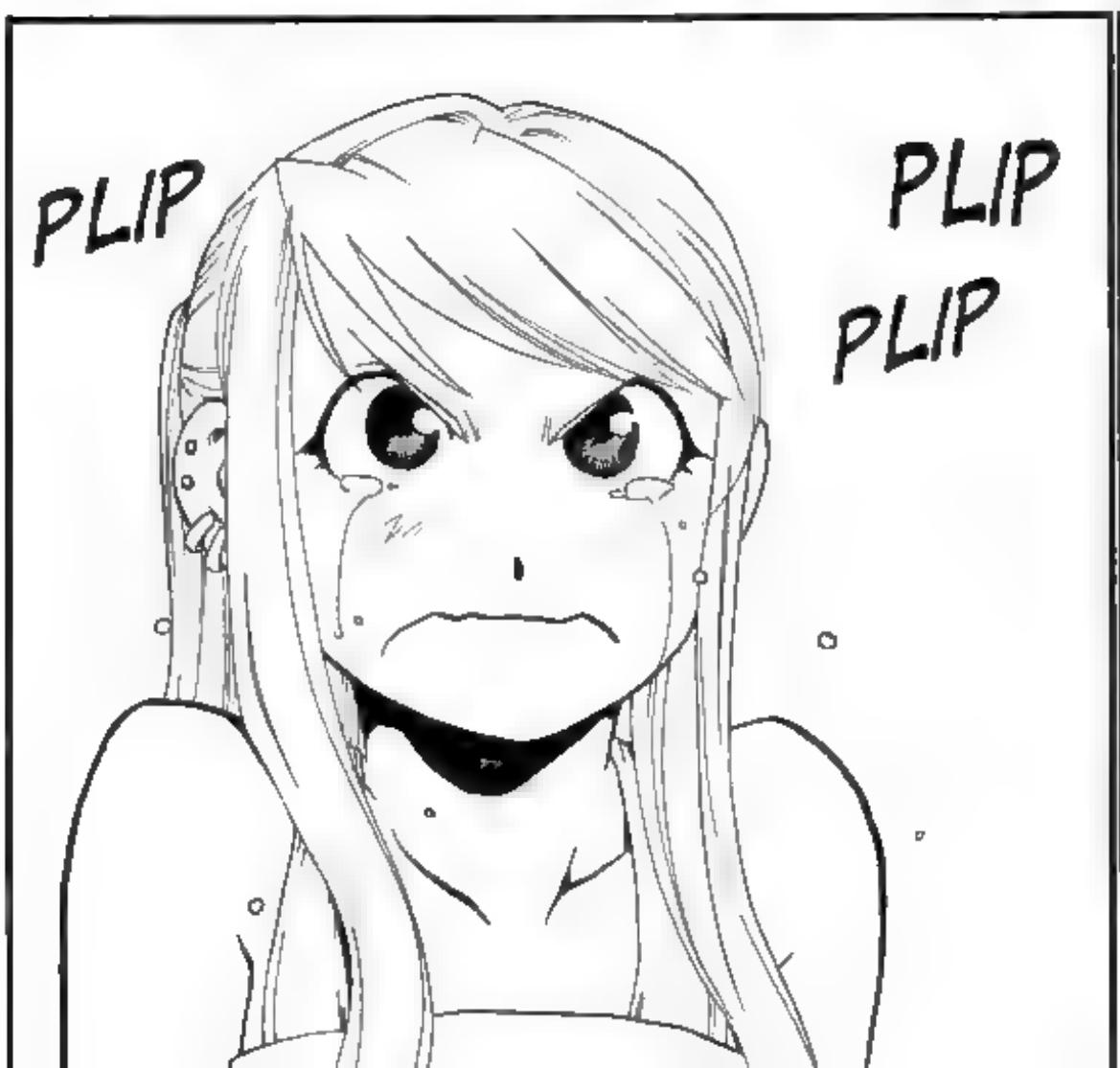
...I SEE.

YOU...

ED !



WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!?
RATTLE
RATTLE
KLANG
YOU IDIOT !!


PLIP
PLIP
PLIP

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

BONK

OW!

AL, YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT !!

EEEEEP!

W.. WINRY...

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW ED FEELS, DO YOU ?!

THE THING THAT ED WAS TOO AFRAID TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

...WAS WHETHER YOU BLAME HIM FOR WHAT HAPPENED !!

HE CAN'T EAT, HE CAN'T SLEEP... HE CAN'T EVEN FEEL PAIN...

...IT'S MY FAULT THAT AL GOT STUCK WITH THAT BODY...

I'M AFRAID...

I'M TOO AFRAID TO ASK HIM...

HE PROBABLY BLAMES ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK HIM?

AL ISN'T THE TYPE OF GUY TO BLAME YOU FOR THAT.

YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T

HE USED TO CRY HIMSELF TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT FROM THE PAIN AND FEVER CAUSED BY HIS AUTO-MAIL SURGERY.

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GET HIM BACK TO NORMAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

KLANG BANG KLANG

WHAT IDIOT WOULD RISK HIS OWN LIFE TO CREATE A *FAKE* YOUNGER BROTHER!!?

BANG BANG BANG

AND THEN YOU WENT AND SAID WHAT YOU DID...

ALL YOU GUYS HAVE IS EACH OTHER.

!?

SHOOP

UM...

GO AFTER HIM !

...OKAY.

ZOOM

YES, MA'AM !!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? RUN !!

CLANK

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

ED...

...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOUR WOUNDS HAVEN'T EVEN HEALED YET...

HUH ?

...MY BODY FEELS KIND OF OUT OF SHAPE BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T SPARRED IN A WHILE.

WSH

WHOA !?

WH... WHAT ?!

THOK THOK

WAIT !

HOLD ON A SEC, BIG BROTHER !!

GONK

THOK

YOUR WOUNDS ARE GONNA REOPEN!

...HUH!?

FWAP

WHAM

KATHUNK!

HEH HEH... THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER BEAT AL.

ta-DA!

I WIN !

..YOU CHEATED...

SHUT UP. A WIN IS A WIN!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS ALWAYS OVER SOMETHING DUMB.

LIKE WHO GETS THE TOP BUNK.

I LOST THAT ONE.

YEAH.

WE SURE HAVE GOTTEN IN A LOT OF FIGHTS SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.

WE FOUGHT DURING TRAINING AT OUR TEACHER'S PLACE, TOO.

THAT ONE WAS A DRAW BECAUSE OUR TEACHER TOLD US TO "SHUT UP" AND PROCEEDED TO ALMOST KILL US BOTH.

WE FOUGHT ALL THE TIME OVER SNACKS, DIDN'T WE?

YEAH, I DON'T REMEMBER EVER WINNING ANY OF THOSE, EITHER.

THERE WAS THE TIME WE FOUGHT OVER OUR TOYS...

AND WHEN I DREW IN YOUR BOOK.

OH, I ***DEFI-NITELY*** WON THAT ONE.

I WON THAT ONE.

REMEM-BER THAT TIME WHEN WE WERE PLAYING BY THE RAIN RIVER?

OF COURSE I DO. YOU THREW ME IN!

WE ALSO FOUGHT OVER WHO WOULD BE THE ONE TO MARRY WINRY.

HUH!? I DON'T REMEMBER ***THAT*** !!

I WON THAT ONE, TOO, BUT WE BOTH GOT DUMPED.

Oh really ?

...NO, IT WASN'T FAKE.

IN EAST CITY, YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WOULD DO ***ANYTHING*** TO GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK.

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT WHAT YOU FELT THEN WAS FAKE, TOO?

...SORRY.

SO YOU REALLY THINK ALL THOSE MEMORIES ARE ***FAKE?***

WE CAN'T START DOUBTING OURSELVES BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THIS TRIVIAL.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE DECIDED THAT THE TWO OF US WOULD GET OUR BODIES BACK TO NORMAL NO MATTER WHAT IT TOOK.

HA HA

AND I'M EVEN GONNA TRY TO DRINK MILK... IF I CAN...

I'M GONNA GET BETTER AT FIGHTING AND MAKE MYSELF STRONGER ON THE INSIDE, TOO!

WELL...

MR. HUGHES.

I GUESS THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO SAY OUT LOUD TO UNDERSTAND.

OKAY!

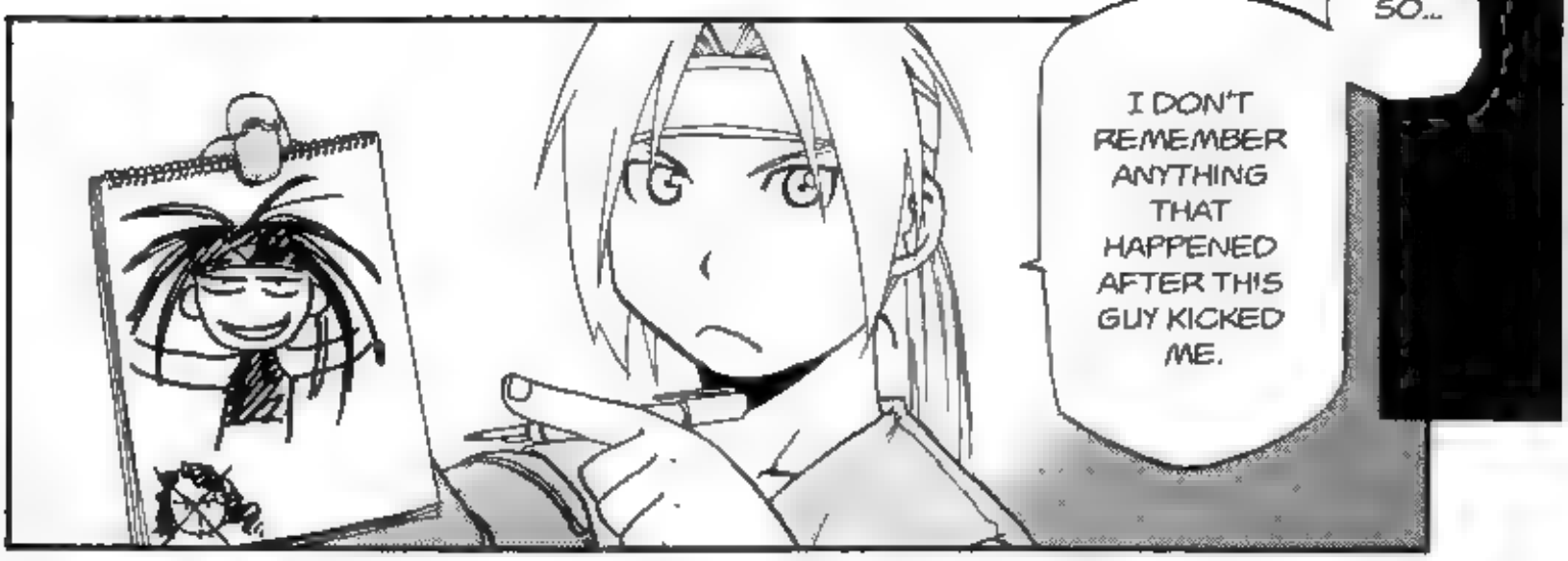
KA

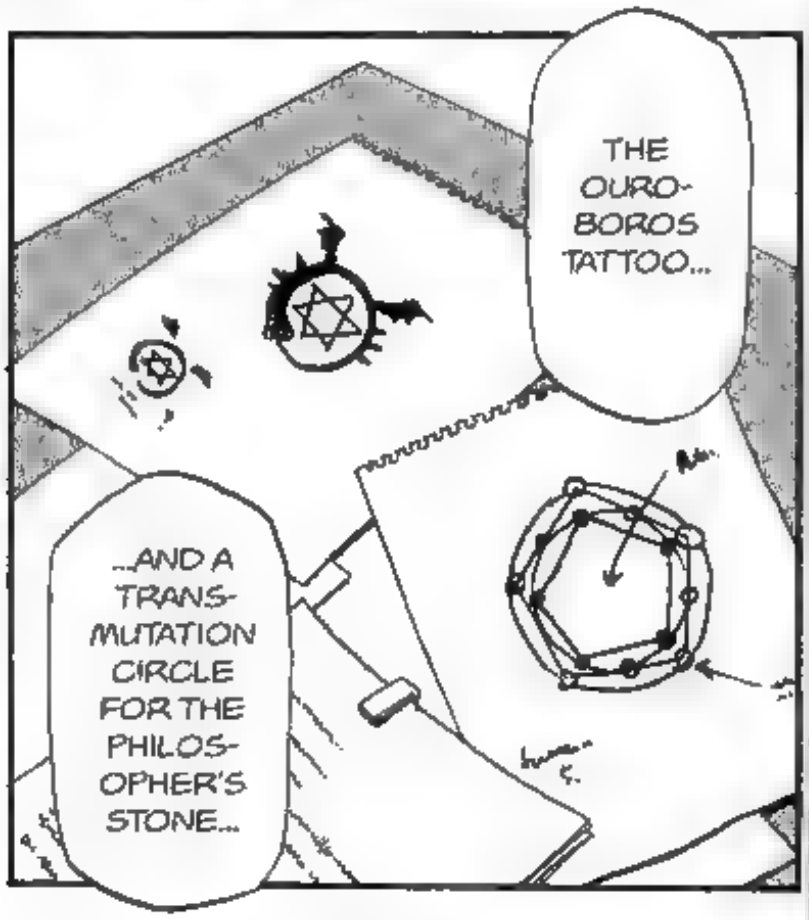
KNG

LET'S BOTH GET A LOT STRONGER.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

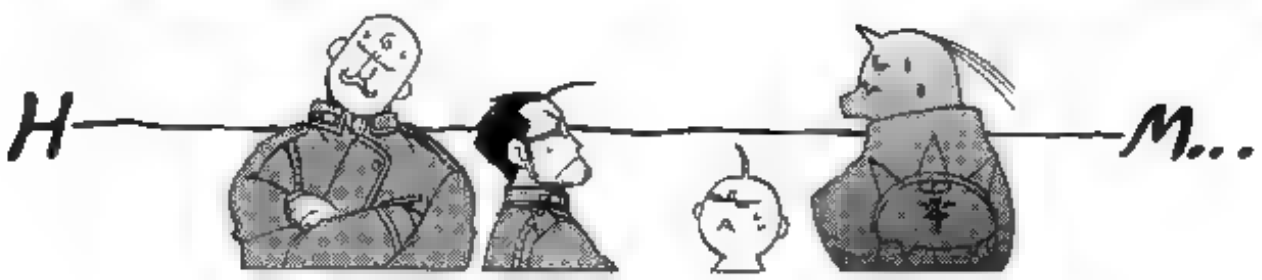
OW.


SO...
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTER THIS GUY KICKED ME.


THE OURO-BOROS TATTOO...
...AND A TRANS-MUTATION CIRCLE FOR THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE...

AND THE LABORATORY IS A DEAD END BECAUSE IT'S BEEN REDUCED TO A PILE OF RUBBLE.
THERE ARE TOO MANY MYSTERIES FOR THIS TO BE SIMPLY AN EXPER-IMENT TO PRODUCE THE STONE.

MEANWHILE, WE HAVE DR. MARCOH CREATING A STONE FOR USE IN THE EASTERN CIVIL WAR...
HUMAN SOULS TRAPPED IN ARTIFICIAL BODIES, USED AS GUARDS... "HUMAN SACRIFICE"... ALLOWING YOU TO LIVE...AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED ENVY...


H
M...

I'M **NOT** LISTENING- I **DON'T** WANT TO GET INVOLVED. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE DANGEROUS ASSIGN-MENTS!

WHATEVER THEY'RE DISCUSSING IN THERE SOUNDS REALLY **COMPLI-CATED.**

HMMM~

YES, THIS IS THE-

CLAK CLAK

EXCUSE ME, BUT IS THAT THE FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST'S HOSPITAL ROOM?

NOK NOK

AND I SHALL SEE IF I CAN TRACK DOWN ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE ASSISTED DR. MARCOH WITH HIS RESEARCH.

HMM...

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING IF WE GO THROUGH THE CRIMINAL RECORDS AT THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION.

I HOPE I'M NOT INTER-RUPTING ?

MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE...?

YES, SIR..

AT EASE, GENTLE-MEN.

THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE A FUSS.

FÜHRER PRESIDENT KING BRADLEY !!

AGGGH! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

UH.. THANKS.

DO YOU LIKE MELONS?

WHAT BRINGS ME? WHY, TO VISIT HIM, OF COURSE!

HUH!? THAT IS...I MEAN...

I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN DOING QUITE A BIT OF **SNOOPING** INTO **MILITARY COMMAND**, MAJOR ARMSTRONG.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

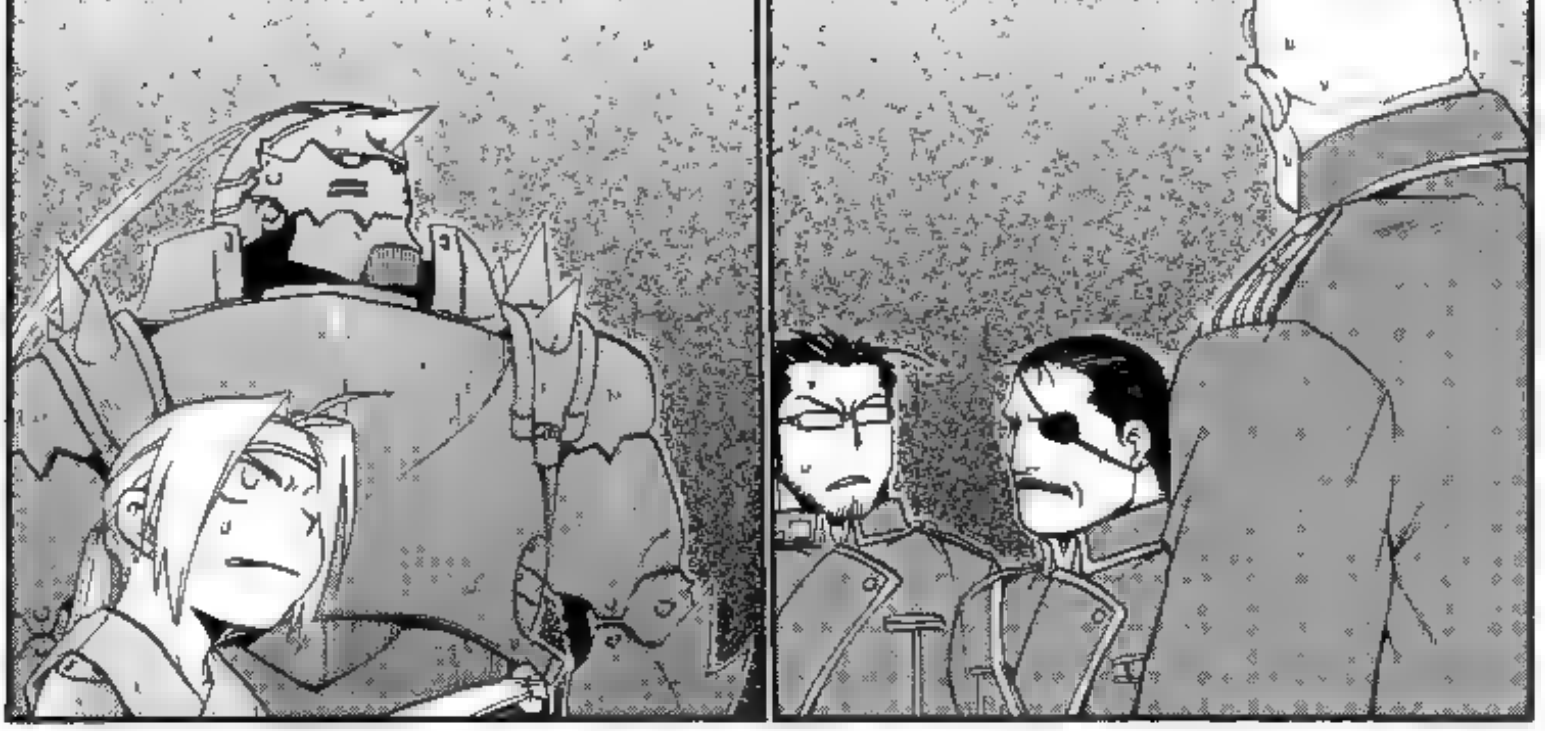
A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON YOUR ANSWER...

DON'T UNDER-EST!MATE MY INFOR-MATION NETWORK, MAJOR.

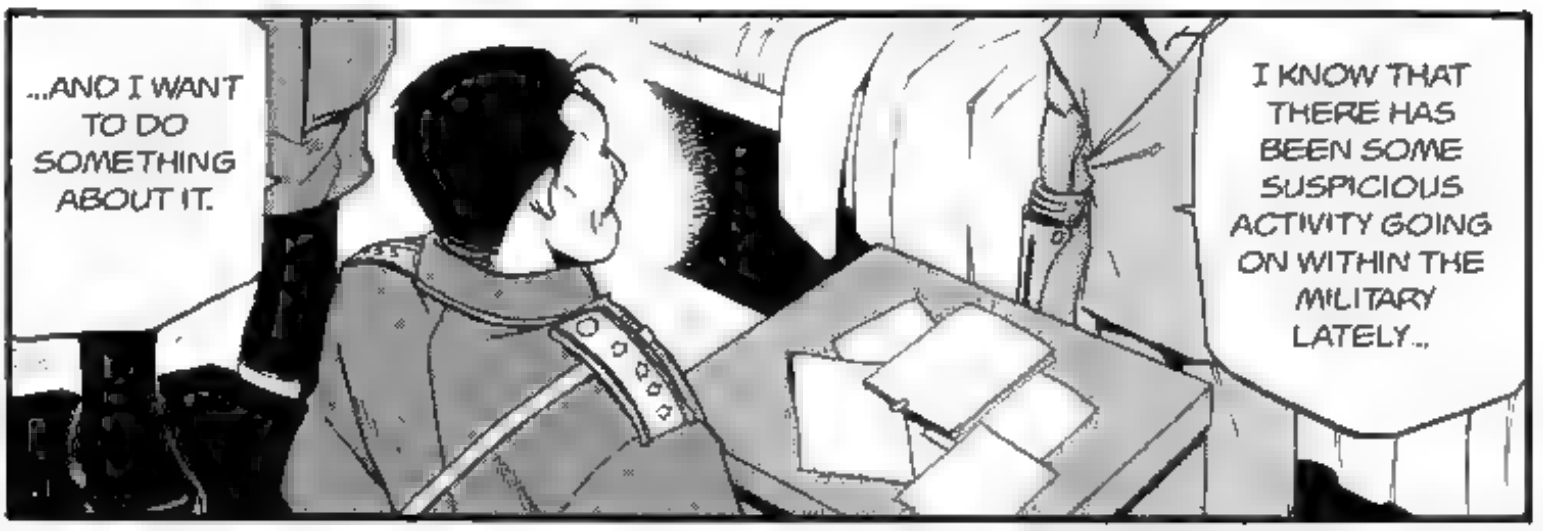
AND **YOU**, EDWARD ELRIC...

HOW DID YOU...?

YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR THE **PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE**, ARE YOU NOT?



HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HUH
?
GRIN
DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT !
WA HA HA HA
HA HA HA!
JUST KIDDING !


...AND I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
I KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY GOING ON WITHIN THE MILITARY LATELY...

HM...IT'S A LIST OF ALL THE RESEARCHERS WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH THE STONE. YOU'VE DONE QUITE A JOB FINDING ALL OF THESE NAMES.

UH.. THAT'S...

WHAT HAVE WE HERE..?

BUT YOU SEE, THE WHEREABOUTS OF ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN.

AND PRESENTLY, EVEN WITH MY VAST INFORMATION NETWORK, I DON'T KNOW OUR ENEMY'S MOTIVES...OR THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE INFILTRATED THE MILITARY.

THE ENEMY IS ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF US.

...!

THEY DISAPPEARED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE EXPLOSION AT LABORATORY #5.

ELRIC BROTHERS...

MAJOR ARMSTRONG..

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES..

YUP.

SIR..ARE YOU SAYING IT COULD BE DANGEROUS TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER...?

I AM GIVING YOU THIS ORDER FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

I HAVE DECIDED THAT YOU ARE ALL INDIVIDUALS WHOM I CAN TRUST.

THIS IS TRULY A CASE WHERE YOU CANNOT TELL FRIEND FROM FOE. *TRUST NO ONE!*

I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO SPEAK OF THIS TO ANYONE OR STICK YOUR NECK IN THIS MATTER ANY FURTHER!!

YOU MUST BE ***DISCREET*** IN YOUR ACTIONS AND ASSUME THAT THE ***ENTIRE MILITARY*** IS THE ENEMY!

Y...

YES, SIR !!

GRIN

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL CALL ON YOU, SO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE PREPARED.

HOW-EVER !

NOW I MUST LEAVE !

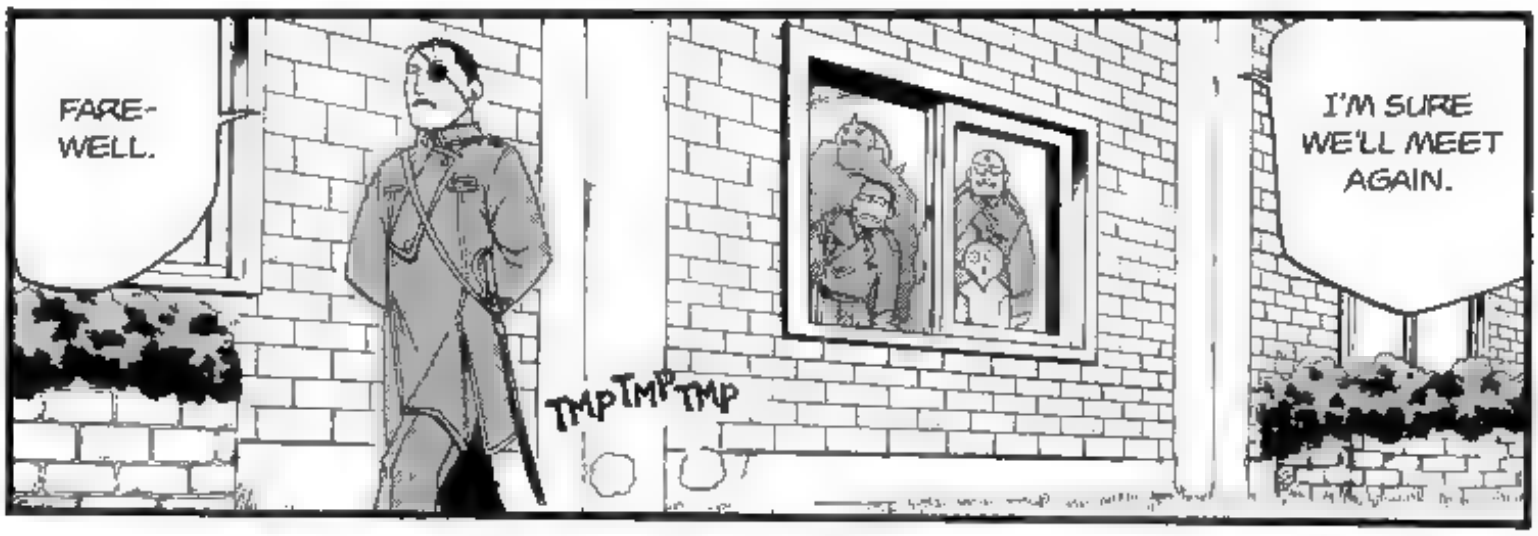
WAVE

I SLIPPED OUT EARLIER WITHOUT THEM NOTICING!

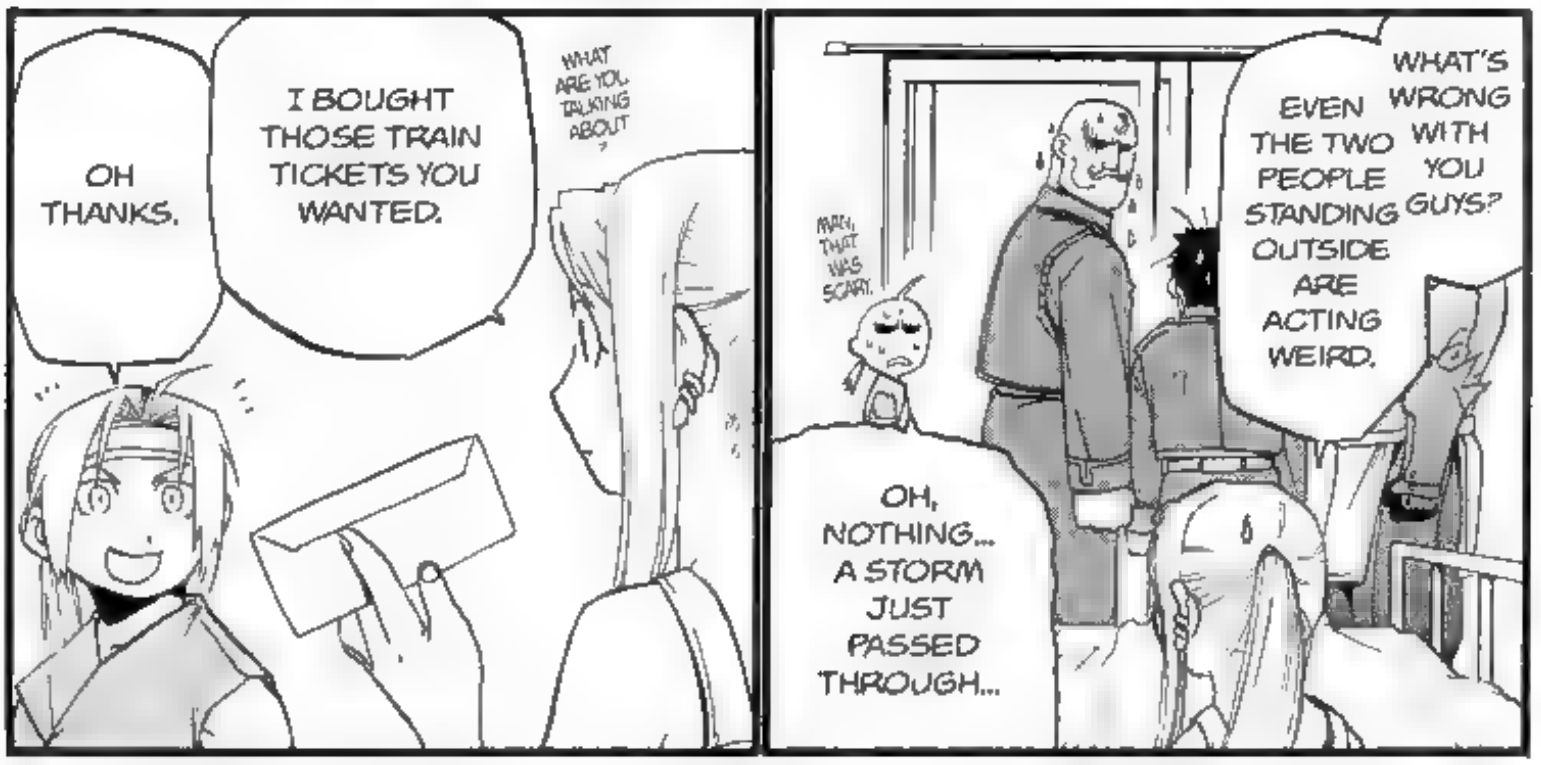
OH NO! MY PESKY BODY-GUARDS ARE BACK!

HAS ANYONE SEEN PRES-IDENT BRADLEY ?!

MR. PRESI-DENT !!


FARE-
WELL.
TMP TMP TMP
I'M SURE
WE'LL MEET
AGAIN.

HUH
?
WA
HA
HA
HA
HA
DUHHH


OH
THANKS.
I BOUGHT
THOSE TRAIN
TICKETS YOU
WANTED.
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
?
MAN,
THAT
WAS
SCARY.
OH,
NOTHING...
A STORM
JUST
PASSED
THROUGH...
EVEN
THE TWO
PEOPLE
STANDING
OUTSIDE
ARE
ACTING
WEIRD.
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
YOU
GUYS?

I CAN'T STAY IN A PLACE THAT SMELLS LIKE DISINFECTANT FOREVER! I'M LEAVING TOMORROW.

MUST YOU RUSH?

YOUR WOUNDS HAVEN'T COMPLETELY HEALED YET.

LOOK! HERE, RIGHT BEFORE DUBLITH!!

POKE

RUSH VALLEY? IS THERE SOME-THING THERE?

WHAAA!?

UH...

WHERE'S THAT?

DUB-LITH?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS TIME?

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

IT'S RIGHT AROUND HERE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SOUTHERN REGION.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO THERE!

BLOOM

RUSH VALLEY, THE AUTO-MAIL ENGINEERS' MECCA!!

GO THERE BY YOUR-SELF!

Peh

TAKE ME! TAKE ME! TAKE ME! YOU BETTER TAKE ME!

YIP-PEE!

OH, ALL RIGHT.

WHAT'S THE HARM? IT *IS* ON THE WAY.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON MOOCHING OFF OF ME!!?

WHO'S GONNA PAY FOR MY TRAVEL EXPENSES!?

TUP TUP TUP TUP

YAHOO!

NOT AS GREAT AS MY WIFE, OF COURSE...

YUP, SHE WOULD MAKE SOME-ONE A GREAT WIFE.

SHE SURE IS *ENER-GETIC.*

HA HA HA

DON'T TELL ME THAT!!

AND QUIT BRAG-GING!!

I'M GONNA CALL GRANNY!

I WAS PLANNING TO GO RIGHT BACK TO RESEMBOOL, BUT THIS IS WORTH A CHANGE IN PLANS!

WELL...

ED AND I DID A LOT OF TALKING AND WE DECIDED THAT THE BEST THING TO DO NEXT WOULD BE TO GO VISIT OUR OLD TEACHER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DUBLITH FOR?

203

KILL-ED...?

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THIS TEACHER OF YOURS...?

WE'RE GONNA GET KILLED FOR SURE!

AW, MAN..

...

JUST DEAL WITH IT!!

WAAAH, ED, I'M SCARED !!

I HEAR EVERY-THING'S UNDER CONTROL NOW.

YES. APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME KIND OF CULT IN THE AREA. THEY WERE EXPOSED AS FRAUDS AND THE PEOPLE TURNED AGAINST THEM.

HUH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

RIOTS IN REOLE ?

IT'S NOT JUST THE EAST AREA— THE NORTH AND THE WEST HAVE BEEN HAVING THEIR SHARE OF RIOTS AND BORDER SKIRMISHES.

WHO KNOWS? THIS COULD BE THE START OF THE REVOLUTION, EH?

Ha Ha

EAST AREA NEWS

AW MAN... LOOK AT THE DEATH TOLL...

THE EAST AREA'S BEEN FULL OF TROUBLE LATELY, WHAT WITH THE ISHBALANS, THESE RIOTS AND EVERY-THING ELSE.

CLUNK

?

TMP TMP TMP

THE RECORDS ROOM. I WANT TO CHECK ON SOME OLD FILES.

LIEU-TENANT COLONEL.. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THE RIOTS IN REOLE..

THE ISHBALAN CIVIL WAR..

CREAK...

I NEED TO TELL THE MAJOR AND THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THIS RIGHT AWAY..

HEY, HEY... WHAT HAVE WE HERE...? WHO THE HELL WOULD THINK UP SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

AND..

SLAM-

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

OR SHOULD I SAY... *GOOD-BYE.*

...

THAT'S A NICE TATTOO...

YOU KNOW TOO MUCH, LT. COLONEL HUGHES.

SNIK

SNK

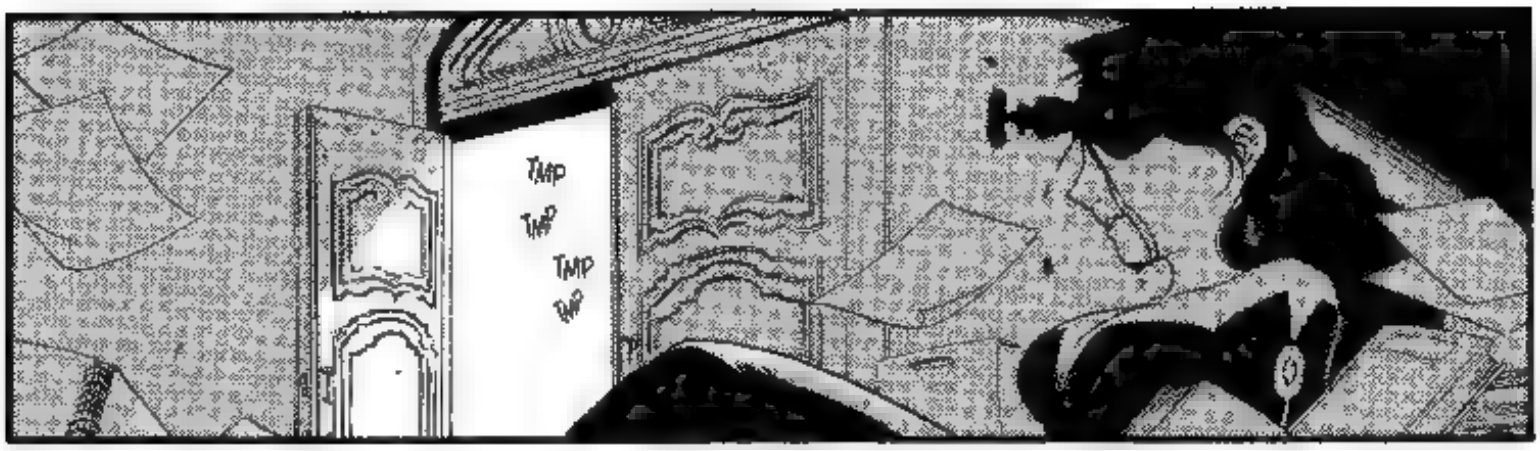
WSSH

THUD

Ugh

DAMN IT !!

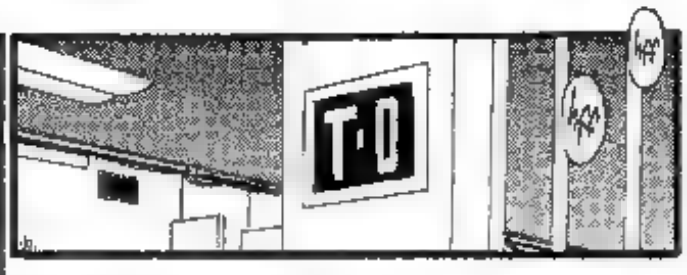
ARGH...


TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE DESKWORK TYPE...BUT IT SEEMS THAT ARM OF YOURS IS GOOD FOR MORE THAN JUST PUSHING PAPER.

PLUP
"DAMN T"... YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH.

I NEED IT'S TO NOTHING. USE THE PHONE.
LT. COLONEL, YOU'RE BLEEDING !!


T-0

WERE YOU BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY ON THE PHONE AGAIN...?
OH, LT. COLONEL HUGHES.

GRP

I HAVE TO CALL THE PRESIDENT...

SLAM!

?

HUH!? LT. COLONEL !!

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

CARRY ON.

I'M USING AN OUT-SIDE LINE BECAUSE IT'S AN EMERGENCY!! THIS IS LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES FROM CENTRAL!!

I'M SORRY, BUT WE HAVE A POLICY OF NOT CONNECTING CALLS FROM AN OUTSIDE LINE—

CLICK

HELLO, EAST CITY HEAD-QUARTERS.

GET ME ROY... I MEAN COLONEL MUSTANG!

UNCLE-SUGAR-OLIVER-EIGHT-ZERO-ZERO!

@#5%! ARE YOU SERIOUS!!?

FWIP

MAY I HAVE THE CODE, PLEASE?

HURRY UP! THE MILITARY'S IN *GRAVE DANGER*!!

I'VE VERIFIED THE CODE. ONE MOMENT PLEASE.

CRUNCH

FWIP

PLEASE HANG UP THE PHONE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

THE PHONE..

HANG IT UP..., *NOW.*

SECOND LIEU-TENANT ROSS...?

NO... YOU'RE NOT HER.

WHO ARE YOU?

SECOND LIEUTENANT ROSS HAS A MOLE UNDER HER LEFT EYE!

I'M... SECOND LIEUTENANT MARIA ROSS.

I'VE MET YOU AT THE HOSPITAL MANY TIMES...

NO YOU'RE NOT.

IS THAT SO? HOW FORGETFUL OF ME.

OH...

WHA...?

IS THAT BETTER?

BZZT

A DREAM, HM? THIS IS ABOUT TO BECOME YOUR *WORST NIGHT-MARE.*

THIS HAS GOT TO BE A DREAM...

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?! DAMN IT!

I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITING FOR ME AT HOME...

HEY, HEY, GIVE ME A BREAK.

FLICK

YOUR QUICK WITS HAVE GOTTEN YOU INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE THIS TIME, LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES.

SHWA

AA

I CAN'T AFFORD TO DIE YET!!

PRETTY GOOD ACTING, HUH...

...LIEU-TENANT COLONEL HUGHES ?

NNH...

YOU WOULDN'T STAB ***YOUR OWN WIFE***, WOULD YOU?

RRRRING
RRRRING
...HM?
OH MY G...
THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU ON AN OUTSIDE LINE FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES.
HUGHES AGAIN ?
PUT HIM THROUGH.
CHK CLK
...
IT'S ME.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY!
...
?
BRRRRRING

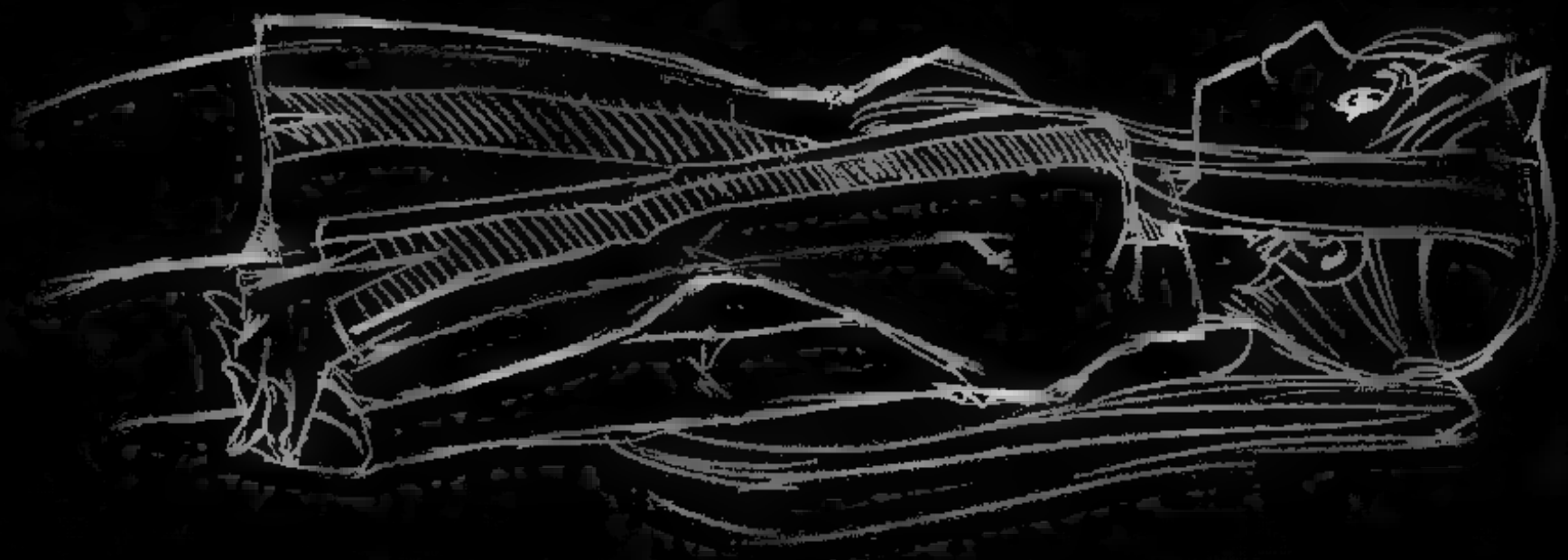
HEY
!

HUGHES...

HUGHES
?

HUGHES
!

HUGHES
!!



FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

Side Story: Dog of the Military?

..WHAT'S THIS?

WHIMPER

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, WARRANT OFFICER FALMAN!

"DOG." MEMBER OF THE GENUS *CANIS*. SCIENTIFIC NAME. *CANIS FAMILIARIS*. THE SPECIES IS THOUGHT TO HAVE DESCENDED FROM WOLVES. HAS A TENDENCY TO HUNT IN PACKS.

NO...THE DORM WHERE I LIVE DOESN'T ALLOW DOGS.

ARE YOU GONNA KEEP THIS DOG, MASTER SERGEANT FUERY?

IT'S A DOG THAT I FOUND THIS MORNING!

I'M SORRY, YOU GUYS!

IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF IT, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT HERE!

IT LOOKED SO SAD AND HELPLESS SITTING THERE IN THE RAIN... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.

I LIVE IN A DORM TOO, SO I CAN'T.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE THAT WOULD TAKE THIS DOG FOR ME?

...I GUESS NOT...

I HATE DOGS!! I REALLY HATE THEM!!

WHAT ABOUT YOU SECOND LIEU-TENANT BREDA...?

OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH, 2ND LT. HAVOC!

I LOVE DOGS.

YOINK

OKAY THEN, I'LL TAKE HIM.

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *TASTY* WHEN THEY'RE *STIR-FRIED.*

IT WAS JUST A JOKE!

YOU'D BETTER LOOK FOR A DIFFERENT OWNER.

THEY SAY THAT DOGS WITH RED COATS TASTE THE BEST...

THERE'S A COUNTRY IN THE FAR EAST THAT RAISES THEM FOR FOOD.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

WE CAN'T KEEP A PET. WE TRAVEL SO MUCH AND DON'T EVEN HAVE A REAL HOME.

A DOG?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT BACK A DOG WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE MEANS TO TAKE CARE OF IT.

YOU'RE TOO NICE, MASTER SERGEANT.

MEOOOW

EEP!

RIGHT, AL?

BUT IT LOOKED SO COLD, TREMBLING IN THE RAIN!! CAN I KEEP HIM!?

NO!! TAKE IT BACK TO WHERE YOU FOUND IT!!

YOU PICKED UP ANOTHER CAT AND YOU'RE HIDING IT IN THERE, AREN'T YOU, AL!!?

MEEOOW

SKRITCH SCRATCH SKRITCH SCRATCH

DON'T RUN!! THINK OF THE POOR CAT!!

GASHUNK

MEOOOWR!

GASHUNK

DASH

YOU'RE SO MEAN, ED!! I HATE YOU!!

REALLY, SIR !?

HA HA HA

I LIKE DOGS.

HM.. A DOG !?

I CAN'T ALLOW THIS PERSON TO BE THE OWNER!!

DOGS ARE GREAT!! I LOVE THEM!!

YES! DOGS ARE TRULY ***MAN'S BEST SERVANTS***!

MWAHA HA HA HA!

THEY DON'T COMPLAIN WHEN THEY'RE TREATED SEVERELY AND THEY DON'T NEED TO BE PAID A SALARY!

THEY OBEY THEIR MASTER'S COMMANDS WITHOUT QUESTION!

THE BEST THING ABOUT THEM IS, THEY'RE ***LOYAL!***

HOW CAN I PUT IT BACK OUT INTO THE RAIN...?

I DIDN'T KNOW THE LIEUTENANT COULD BE SO COLD.

YES, SIR...

I SEE, SO SHE TOLD YOU THAT IF YOU DIDN'T FIND AN OWNER, YOU WOULD HAVE TO TAKE IT BACK TO WHERE YOU FOUND IT?

LIEUTENANT HAWKEYE MAY SEEM TOUGH, BUT UNDERNEATH ALL THAT, SHE'S GOT A GENTLE HEART.

DON'T WORRY.

...YES, SIR...

YOU DIDN'T FIND ONE, DID YOU?

UH... UM... WELL... THAT IS...

GULP!

DID YOU FIND AN OWNER FOR IT YET, MASTER SERGEANT?

I'LL TAKE IT.

SIGH...

NO, SIR. SO, LIKE I PROMISED, I'LL TAKE IT BACK TO WHERE I FOUND IT...

WELL, I GUESS IF NO ONE ***ELSE*** WANTS TO BE THE OWNER THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE.

BUT I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT I'M VERY ***STRICT***.

I TOLD YOU SHE HAS A GOOD HEART.

SEE ?

HA HA

HA HA HA

LIEUTENANT... !!

WHAT A RELIEF !

I'M SURE THE LIEUTENANT'S GONNA DISCIPLINE THE DOG AND GIVE IT A LOT OF LOVE, TOO.

LAP LAP

I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY FOUND AN OWNER.

KACHAK

UH OH. I GUESS HE ISN'T HOUSE-BROKEN YET...

peee

HEY.

BAM

BAM BAM BAM

BAM BAM BAM

THIS MANGA WAS ORIGINALLY PRINTED IN GANGAN POWERED, FALL 2002

WHEN THE COMMOTION FINALLY DIED DOWN, EACH MEMBER OF THE EAST CITY HQ VOWED TO NEVER OPPOSE THE LIEUTENANT...

OKAY, GOOD BOY.

YOUR POTTY'S HERE, GOT IT?

BAD DOG!

NOD NOD NOD NOD NOD

TREMBLE TREMBLE

L-LET'S GET BACK TO WORK!!

TINK TINK

END

TO BE CONTINUED IN FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST VOL. 5!

EXTRA

...BLACK HAYATE.
I NAMED THE DOG...
YOU SURE HAVE BAD TASTE WHEN IT COMES TO NAMING PETS, HUH?

Cat: Episode 2

KA CLANK

MEOW

WHAK

WHAK

WHAK

MEOOOOW

BAM

MEOW

BAM BAM

MEOW

YOU'RE THE DEVIL!!

WHIFF WHIFF

BRING IT ON

MEEOWR! ROWR!

MEOWR!

GASHUNK

GASHUNK

Cat

HERE. THE BLOOD RUNE IS IN MY HELM.

KA TUNK

MEOWWW

DESTROY THIS AND YOU...

MEOWWW

...YOU'RE ACTUALLY A NICE GUY, AREN'T YOU...?

MEOW

MEOW

IT JUST LOOKED SO SAD, SITTING THERE IN THE RAIN, SO...

Miracle Hair

LATELY MY YOUNGER BROTHER SEEMS TO HAVE MATURED SOMEHOW.

I WONDER WHY...?

...

Somebody Stop Them

BECAUSE I FELT SORRY FOR IT.

BROTHER... WHY DID YOU PUT A CAT INSIDE OUR ARMOR?

Y-YOU HEARTLESS...! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT KNOWING HOW MUCH I LOVE CATS?

HMPH!! CATS ARE TOO SELF-CENTERED!!

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT... I'M A DOG LOVER!! THIS IS WHAT I THINK ABOUT CATS. PTOOIE !!!

AN IDIOT LIKE YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND THE TRUE BEAUTY OF A LITTLE KITTY!

HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT TO ME? YOU STUPID JERK!

WHAT!? WHAT'S THERE TO LOVE ABOUT A BEAST THAT MINDLESSLY WAGS ITS TAIL AND ONLY WANTS TO PLEASE ITS MASTER!!?

ARMOR GOES THROUGH PUBERTY!!?

HEH HEH HEH

GASP!!

DID YOU NOTICE MY LEG HAIRS, BIG BROTHER?

...BUT IT'S SLIGHTLY ONE-SIDED.

TAKE THAT! AND THAT!

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MAKE ME MAD, RIGHT?

A BROTHER'S QUARREL...

CLONK CLONK CLONK

S... STOP...! MY ACHING HEAD!!

AAAAGGH!!

A Man's Dignity

I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK OLDER AND MORE DIGNIFIED..?

MUMBLE MUMBLE

NO ONE THINKS THAT I LOOK OLD ENOUGH. I FEEL LIKE PEOPLE DON'T RESPECT ME.

THAT'S IT!! A MOUS-TACHE !!

A ***MOUSTACHE*** MIGHT MAKE YOU LOOK OLDER.

The Ambitious Alchemist: Part 2

HIS DREAM IS TO BECOME ***FUHRER PRESI-DENT*** AND ESTABLISH ***MINI-SKIRTS*** AS THE OFFICIAL UNIFORM FOR FEMALE SOLDIERS.

COLONEL ROY MUSTANG. 29 YEARS OLD. SINGLE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!!?

I'M GONNA STAY IN THE MILITARY FOR-EVER!

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE COLONEL TO BECOME PRESI-DENT.

WOW, IT'LL BE SO GREAT !

I'M GOING TO FIRE ALL THE MEN AND CREATE MY OWN PER-SONAL HAREM !!

BA-BAM

I DON'T NEED ANY MEN IN MY MILITARY !!

DEFI-NITELY THE MOUS-TACHE.

UH. HUH. IT'S THE MOUS-TACHE...

IS THERE A PROB-LEM ?

MINISKIR...

COLONEL ROY MUSTANG. 29 YEARS OLD. SINGLE. DIES WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO FULFILL HIS GOAL!!

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 4

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

KEISUI TAKAEDA-SAN

SANKICHI HINODEYA-CHAN

JUN MORIYASU-SAN

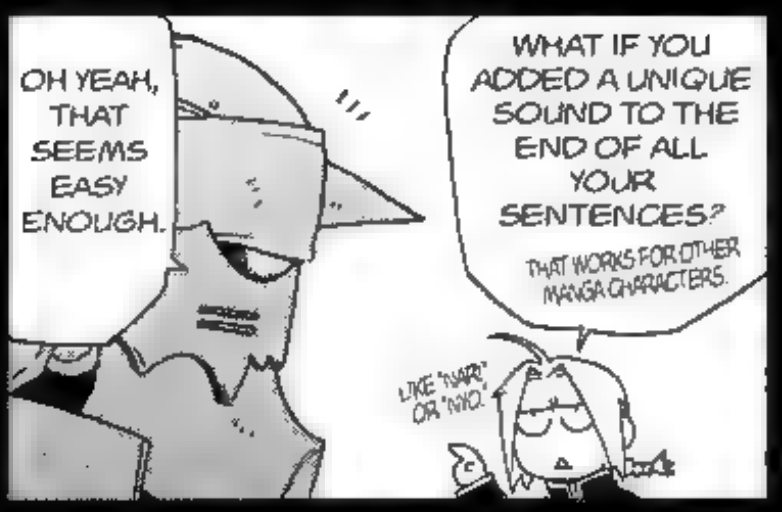
MASANORI-SAN

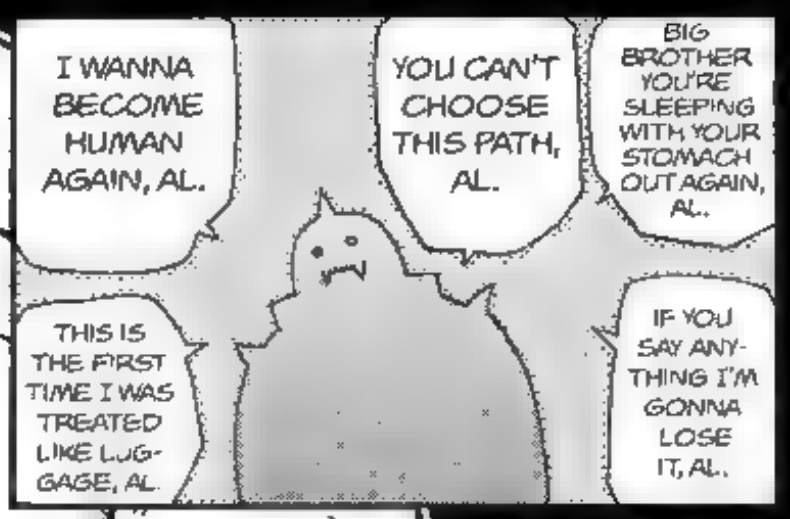
JUNSHI BABA-SAN

YUICHI SHIMOMURA-SHI (MANAGER)

AND YOU !!

Maybe The Loincloth Is The Problem?





KRAAHHH!!

...IF I CAN'T EVEN USE MY POWERS...

...WHEN I NEED THEM THE MOST...!!?

...OR A HUMAN WEAPON...

TWO YOUNG BROTHERS WANT TO BECOME STRONGER...
BUT HOW FAR MUST THEY GO TO REACH THEIR GOAL!?

WHAT'S THE USE OF BEING A STATE ALCHEMIST...

I'M AN ALCHEMIST!

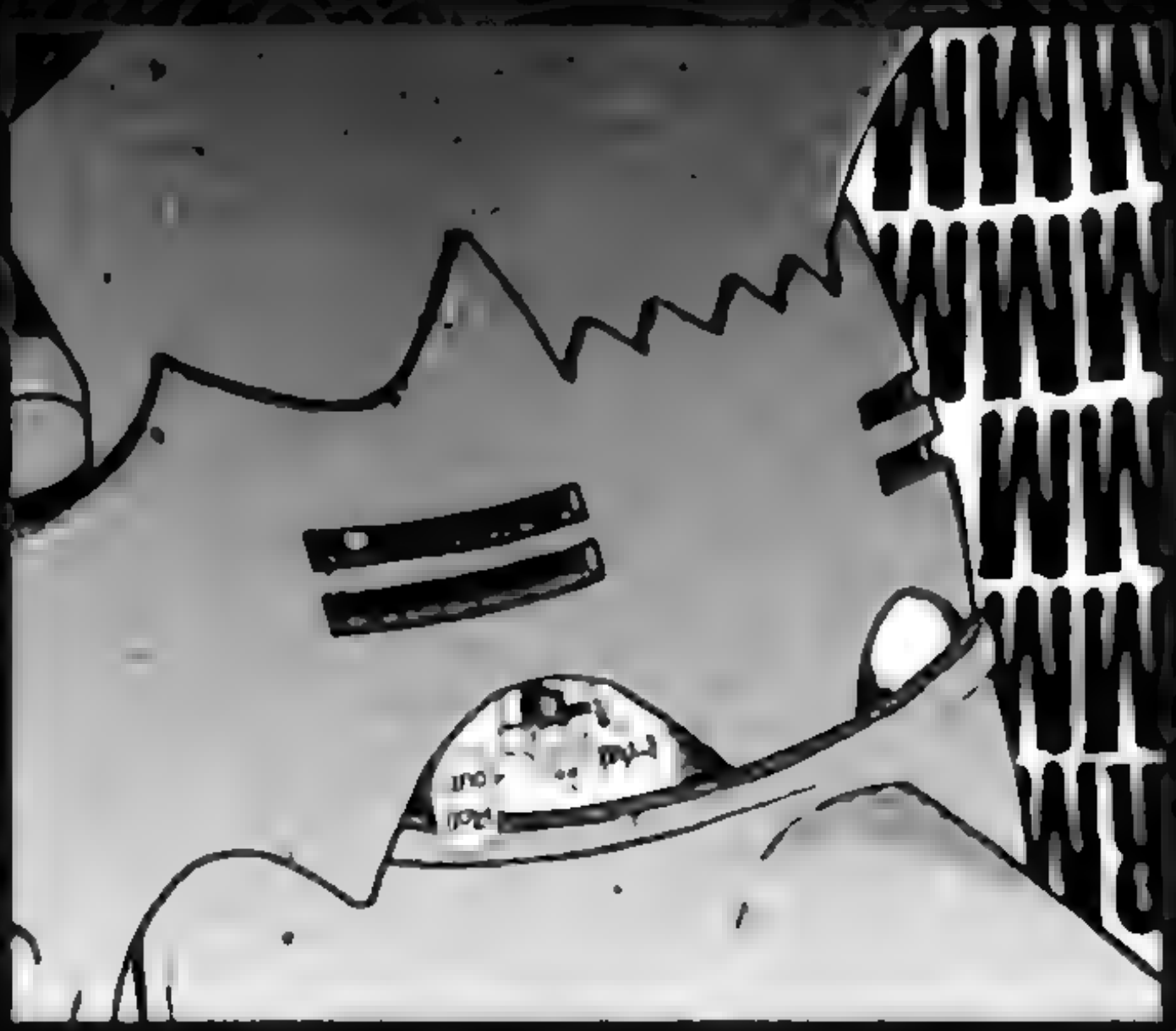
ZZT ZZT ZZT ZZT

FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST VOL.5

SUPER FUSION

Want to see some photos of my daughter? Look, look!
Sigh...

In Memoriam



FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST ④

Hiromu Arakawa

Translation: Akira Watanabe

English Adaptation: Jake Forbes
Touch-up Art & Lettering: Wayne Truman

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Chapter 16: Separate Paths

CHAPTER TWO

KLATA KLATA KLATA

WHAT MADE YOU GUYS DECIDE TO GO TO YOUR TEACHER'S PLACE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

FOR TWO REASONS.

FIRST OF ALL, TO GET STRONGER.

I'VE BEEN LOSING SO MANY FIGHTS LATELY...

203

UH HUH !

WE WANTED TO GET STRONGER ON THE *INSIDE* TOO... RIGHT!?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT BUT...

SHUT UP! MY REASONS AREN'T THAT SIMPLE !!

ARE YOU OBSESSED WITH FIGHTING OR SOME-THING?

HUH? YOU'RE GOING THERE TO GET BETTER AT FIGHTING ?

YUP !

I JUST KNOW THAT WE'RE GONNA GET STRONGER IF WE GO TO OUR TEACHER'S PLACE!

I WANNA GET *WAY* BETTER AT FIGHTING !

AND WHAT'S THE SECOND REASON ?

THE WHOLE TIME WE TRAINED TOGETHER, OUR TEACHER NEVER TAUGHT US ANYTHING ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE OR HUMAN TRANSMUTATION.

I WANT TO ASK OUR TEACHER ABOUT ***TRANS-MUTING HUMAN BEINGS.***

YEAH, AND THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE PHILOSO-PHER'S STONE, THE *MORE* DANGEROUS IT GETS.

SO WE THOUGHT THE BEST THING TO DO WOULD BE TO JUST ASK OUR TEACHER DIRECTLY ABOUT WHETHER THERE'S A WAY TO GET OUR ORIGINAL BODIES BACK.

WE HAVE TO GO AHEAD AND ASK HER, EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT WE MIGHT GET ***KILLED...***

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE TIMID ANYMORE.

I wish I could have at least gotten myself a girlfriend... ll

DOOOM

HELLO?

WE HAD PRETTY SHORT LIVES, DIDN'T WE, AL...?

GET KILLED...

HERE'S SOME-THING THAT'LL CHEER YOU UP!

OH YEAH!

TAH-DAH!

IT'S *APPLE PIE!* ♪

WOW, THAT LOOKS GOOD.

AH HA HA. I THINK SHE MADE ENOUGH FOR THREE PEOPLE.

IT SURE IS BIG.

WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?

MR. HUGHES' WIFE GAVE IT *ME* SO THAT WE COULD EAT IT ON THE TRAIN.

WHA !?

ARE YOU GETTING BACK AT ME FOR BEATING YOU WHEN WE SPARRED AT THE HOSPITAL?

heh heh heh

heh heh

YOU CAN HAVE *MY* SHARE, ED.

ALL RIGHT!

SHE TAUGHT ME THE RECIPE, SO I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET YOUR ORIGINAL BODY BACK, AL.

MR. HUGHES'S WIFE IS A REALLY GOOD COOK.

MMM! IT'S GOOD !

I MET *MRS.* HUGHES AND THEIR DAUGHTER ELICIA.

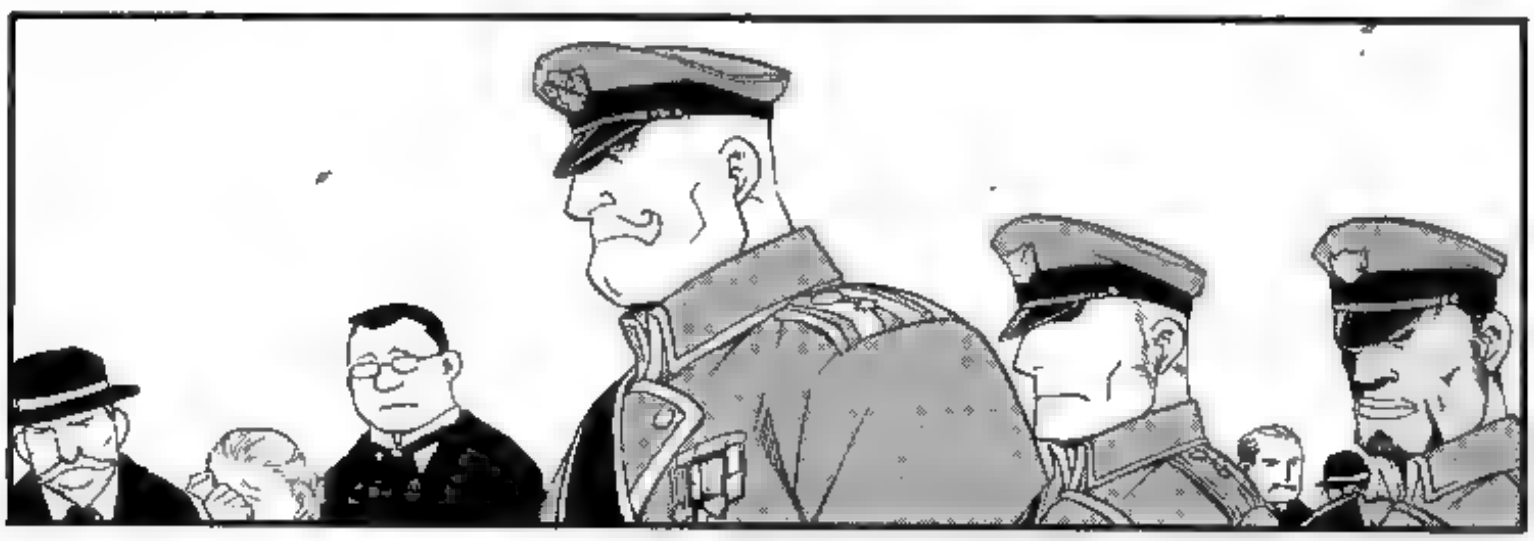
THEY'RE SUCH NICE PEOPLE !

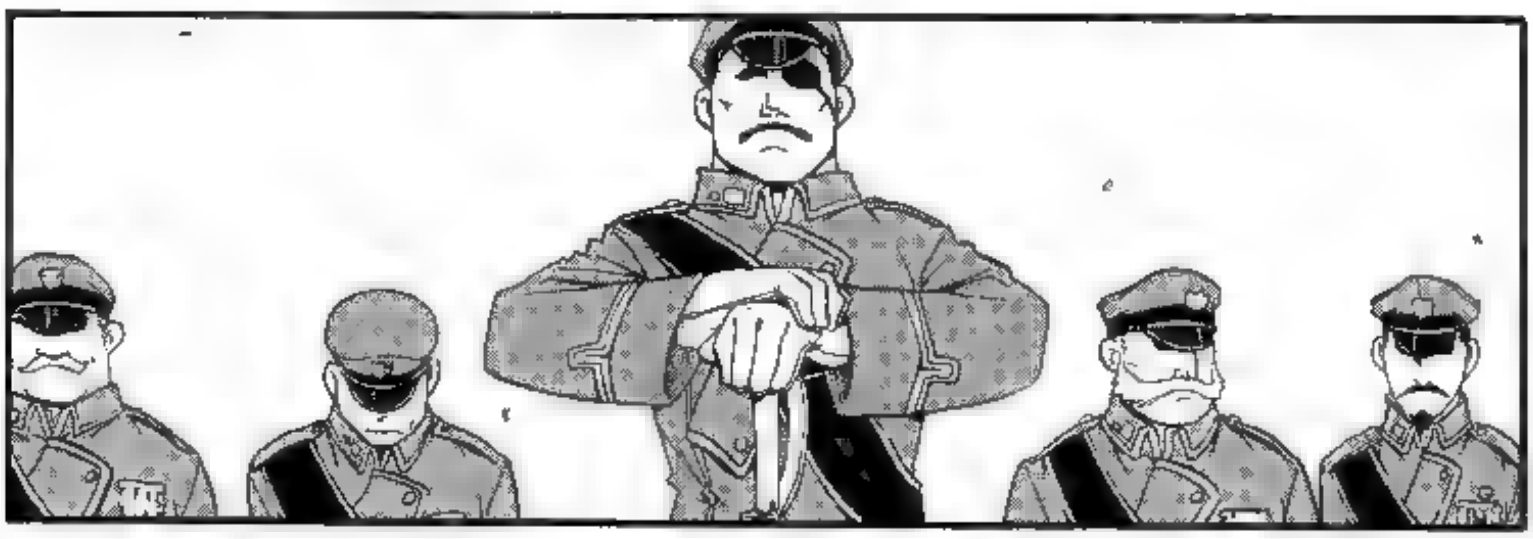
MMMM

"OL SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN.

...I GUESS THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL "***REAL HOME COOKING.***"

HE USED TO COME TO YOUR HOSPITAL ROOM ALL THE TIME JUST TO TALK TO YOU.
HAHAHAHA
LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES, NICE? MORE LIKE SMOTHERY. I DIDN'T ASK "SUPER-DAD" TO FOLLOW ME AROUND ALL THE TIME.
HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY HOW BUSY THINGS WERE AT WORK, BUT HE STILL MADE TIME TO VISIT ME EVERY DAY.
KLATA KLATA
WELL, YEAH...
KLATA
I GOTTA DO SOMETHING NICE FOR HIM THE NEXT TIME WE GO TO CENTRAL...





WHY DO THEY HAVE TO BURY PAPA?

...MA-MA.

WHY ARE YOU GUYS BURYING MY PAPA?

ELI..

IF THEY DO THAT, PAPA WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO WORK ANY-MORE...

NO...

NO...

ELICIA..

PAPA...
!!

PAPA SAID HE HAD LOTSA WORK TO DO!

NO.

PLEASE DON'T BURY HIM...

YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SUPPORT ME BY WORKING UNDER ME. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT NOW, WHEN YOU HAVE A HIGHER RANK THAN ME?
YOU FOOL.
PROMOTED TWO RANKS HIGHER IN DEATH.
MAJOR GENERAL HUGHES, HUH...?

COL-ONEL.

IN A MIN-UTE.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT HEADING BACK?

AREN'T YOU COLD, SIR, WITH ALL THIS WIND?

RIGHT NOW...

...THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT'S TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE DETAILS OF TRANSMUTING HUMAN BEINGS.

WHAT DESPICABLE CREATURES WE ALCHEMISTS ARE, LIEUTENANT.

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

NOW I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE TWO KIDS WANTED TO BRING THEIR MOTHER BACK.

LOOKS LIKE...

..IT'S STARTING TO RAIN.

I'M FINE.

BUT... IT'S NOT RAINING...

THIS IS RAIN.

YES IT IS.

...YES SIR.

LET'S GET BACK.

IT'S... GETTING COLD OUT HERE...

CLAK CLAK CLAK CLAK

ALL OF A SUDDEN HE RAN OFF TOWARDS THE RECORDS ROOM AS IF HE HAD JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING.

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES ALIVE.

THERE WAS A TRAIL OF BLOOD LEADING FROM THE ROOM OUT INTO THIS HALLWAY.
AND THEN IT GOES IN THAT DIREC-TION.

BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE IN HERE.
YES, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO.

HE SEEMED TO HAVE SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT ON HIS MIND.
THE LIEUTENANT COLONEL WAS TRYING TO MAKE A PHONE CALL. HE WAS BLEEDING FROM HIS SHOULDER, BUT DIDN'T EXPLAIN WHY...
T-D

AND THEN HE LEFT...

...WITHOUT MAKING A CALL.

Kree...

HE COULD HAVE CALLED ME FROM THE COURT MARTIAL OFFICE...

...BUT THEN HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO TRY TO CALL ME FROM AN OUTSIDE LINE... HE MUST HAVE HAD SOME REASON FOR NOT TRUSTING THE OFFICE PHONE.

THE OPERATOR AT THE EASTERN HEADQUARTERS HEARD HUGHES SAY, "THE MILITARY'S IN GRAVE DANGER."

DID HE DISCOVER SOMETHING SO SERIOUS THAT IT COULD CAUSE THE MILITARY TO COLLAPSE..?

WHAT WAS IT...?

WHAT COULD HE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME?

I'VE BROUGHT MAJOR ARM-STRONG.

COL-ONEL.

I'M SORRY, SIR. I SAID WE HAVE AN *IDEA* BUT WE DON'T KNOW *WHO* OR *WHERE* THEY ARE.

WE HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF THE IDENTITIES OF THE INDIVIDUALS THAT MURDERED THE LT. COLONEL.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU HURRY UP AND ARREST THEM !!?

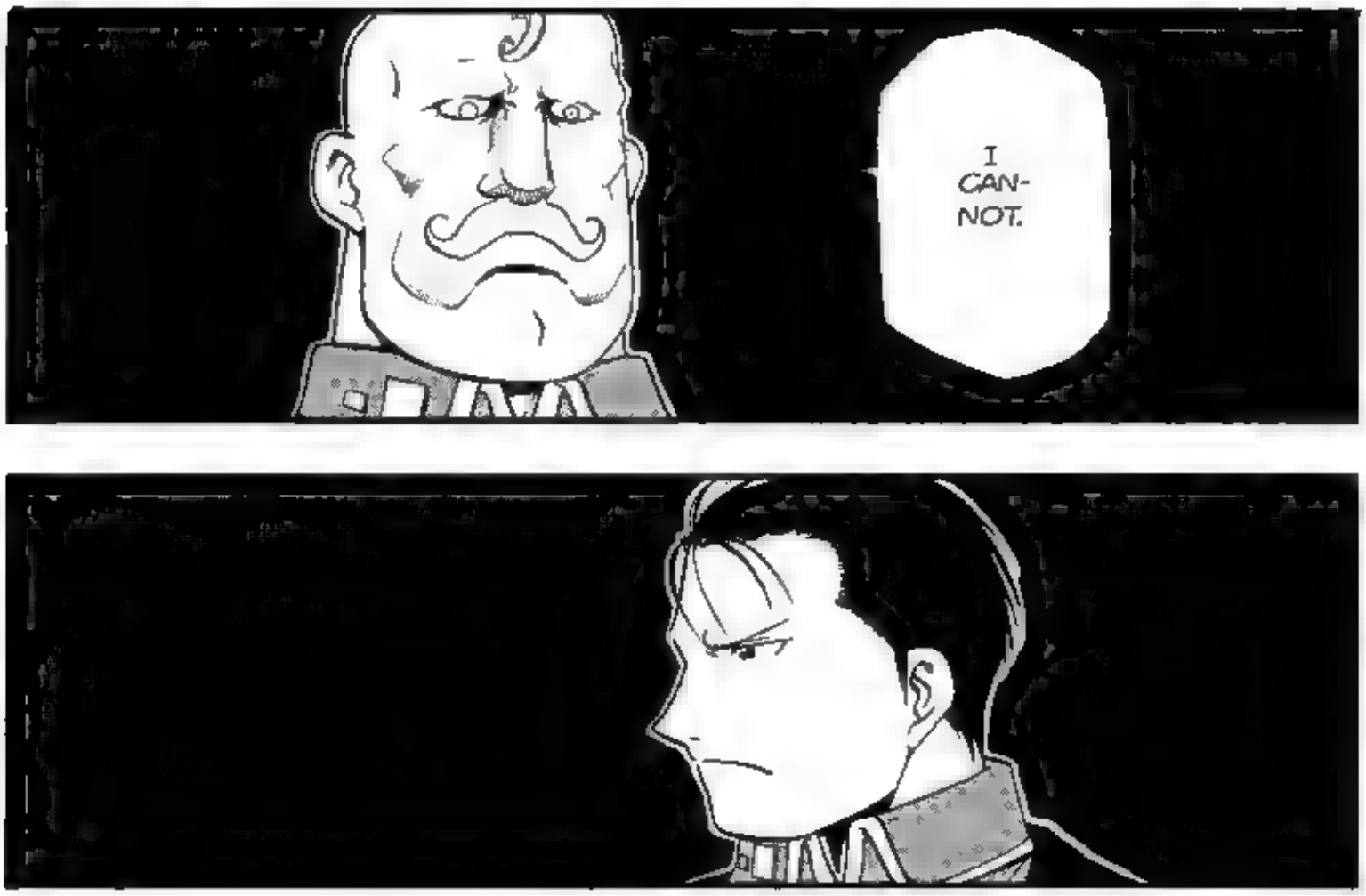
?

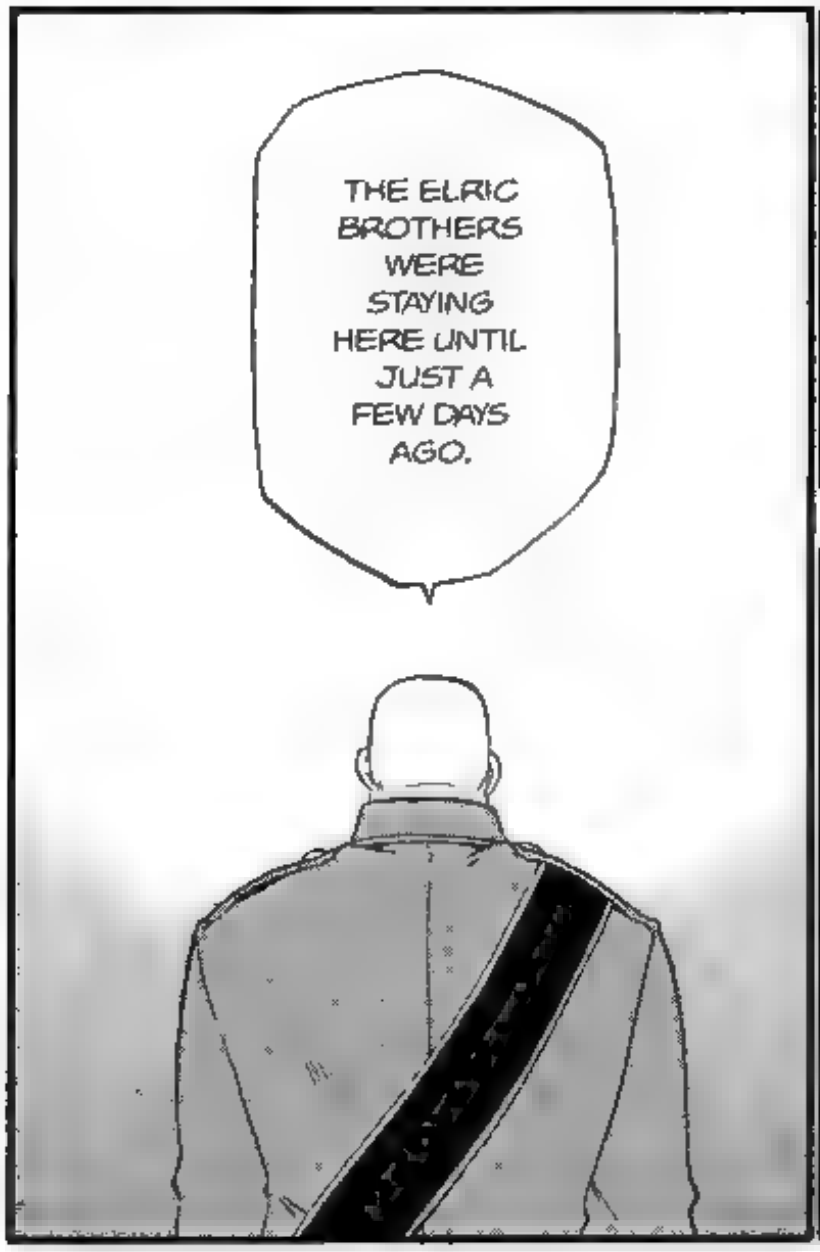
ARE YOU DISOBEYING THE ORDERS OF A SUPERIOR OFFICER !?

A COLONEL IS ORDERING YOU TO SPEAK!

I CAN-NOT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF.


I CAN-NOT.


THE ELRIC BROTHERS WERE STAYING HERE UNTIL JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.

YES, SIR.
YOU CAN GO.
I UNDER-STAND. I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT HERE.

...THERE'S ONE THING THAT I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.

THE *ELRIC BROTHERS* ?

DID THEY FIND *WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR* ?

YES, THE ELRIC BROTHERS.

THANK YOU.

IS THAT SO ?

NO THEY DIDN'T. BECAUSE WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR IS A ***LEGEND***, AFTER ALL.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE MAJOR WAS VERY KIND TO US.

?

...I GUESS WE WEREN'T ABLE TO GET ANY SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION.

"THE IDENTITY OF THE ***INDIVIDUALS***" MEANS THAT THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE MURDERER.

PERHAPS A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING WITHIN AN ORGANI-ZATION...

NOT TO MENTION ***WHAT THE ELRIC BROTHERS ARE LOOKING FOR...***

THE FACT THAT HE WOULDN'T SPEAK, EVEN WHEN ORDERED BY A COLONEL, MEANS THAT THERE IS SOMEONE OF HIGHER RANK THAN MYSELF WHO HAS ORDERED THE MAJOR TO STAY SILENT ABOUT THIS MATTER.

IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT MILITARY COMMAND IS INVOLVED.

I SEE...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ***PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE.***

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LET THIS DIE.

WHO KNOWS? I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST.

SKRICH SKRICH

HOW ARE THEY ALL CONNECT-ED ?

AN ORGANIZA-TION THAT'S INVOLVED WITH THE MILITARY COMMAND, THE PHILOS-OPHER'S STONE, AND LT. COLONEL HUGHES...

I WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN MILITARY COMMAND AND FIND OUT WHO KILLED HUGHES. ***NO MATTER WHAT.***

THIS IS A PERFECT OPPOR TUNITY TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

OH.

CON-GRATULA-TIONS.

SOON I WILL BE TRANS-FERRED TO CENTRAL.

IN THIS CASE, THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "*PERSONAL*" AND "*BUSINESS*."

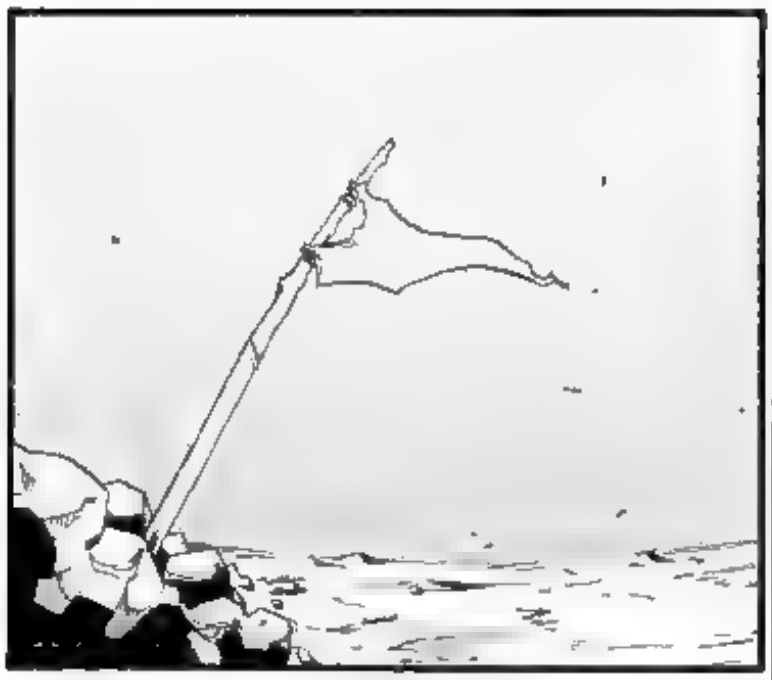
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO MIX YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS WITH BUSINESS.

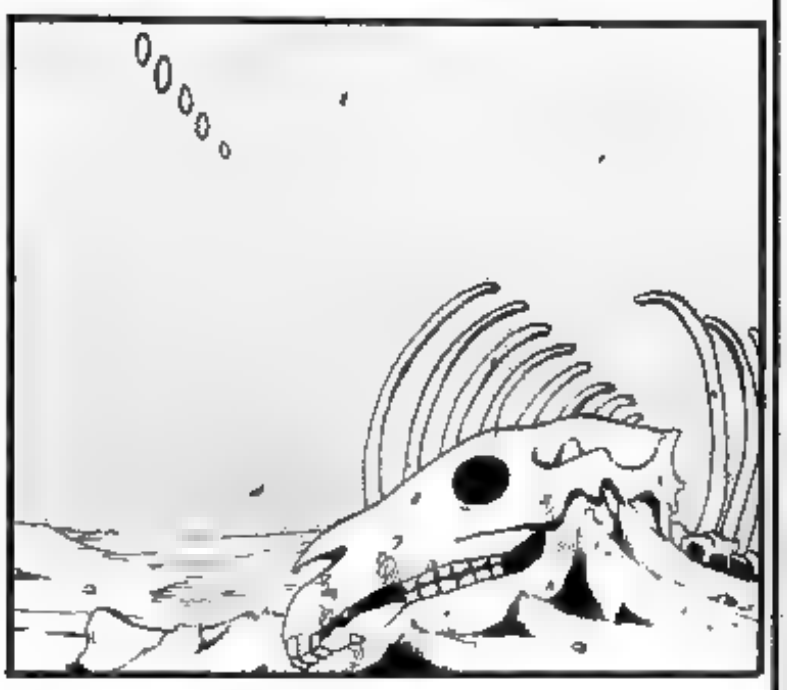
ATTAINING THE PRESIDENCY AND AVENGING HUGHES ARE BOTH THINGS I DO OF MY OWN FREE WILL!

YOU KNOW THERE'S NO NEED TO ASK.

I'M GOING AFTER MILITARY COMMAND.

WILL YOU HELP ME?




Oooo.

Hyoooo.

...WHERE AM I?

THIS SMELL... IS THIS... ISHBAL ?

BRO-THER...

HEY.

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE... ?

FATHER...

YOU'RE NOT AN ISHBALAN.

...WHO ARE YOU?

OH, PLEASE EXCUSE ME. I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.

I'M THE *STATE ALCHEMIST*...

...RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *GENOCIDE* IN THIS REGION.

GWOOOH

BAM

BZT
SHK

GR

P

SNEER

KRIK KREK SNAP

RRRRIP

PAF

SWSH SWSH

BMP

GUH...!

KA

BAM

BOOOM

JOJO

YUP. WE DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD MAKE IT.

...I'M... ALIVE ?

OH ! YOU'RE AWAKE.

YOU'RE IN THE SLUMS AT THE EDGE OF EAST CITY.

WHERE AM I?

UH HUH. YOU BETTER THANK ME!

Deh Heh Heh!

..YOU SAVED ME?

IT'S NOT EVERYDAY THAT A *MAN* COMES FLOATING DOWN THE SEWER.

BLOOG

WHOA!

WE WERE REALLY FREAKED OUT.

...

PLOP

...

WELL, IF YOU WERE ANYONE ELSE, WE WOULD'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING YOU HAD ON YOU AND THEN THROWN YOU BACK IN THE SEWER.

YOU'RE THINKING, "HOW CAN THESE PEOPLE HELP OTHERS WHEN THEY'RE SO POOR THEMSELVES?" RIGHT?

MY MOM'S AN ISHBALAN, TOO!

GRIN

BUT YOU'RE AN *ISHBALAN*, RIGHT?

GRAMPS!

HE'S AWAKE!

!

...WHO'S WANTED BY THE AUTHORITIES, RIGHT?

YOU'RE THE ONE..

OH HO.

YOU'RE VERY LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, YOUNG MAN.

NO ONE WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO BETRAY A KINSMAN.

THIS SLUM IS ***FULL*** OF THOSE WITH TIES TO THE ISHBALANS.

NO NEED TO BE ON GUARD.

..ARE YOU GOING TO ***REPORT*** ME?

KEH KEH KEH

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH, BUT WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN!

GAB GAB

LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, OKAY?

GAHHAHAHA

GAB

PHEW, THAT'S GOOD.

HE'S AWAKE

HEY, I HEARD HE'S AWAKE!

IT'S NOT JUST *HERE*, EITHER.

THERE ARE SMALL COLONIES IN *EVERY* REGION WHERE OUR PEOPLE CONTINUE TO SURVIVE QUIETLY BUT HAPPILY.

SO MANY ISHBALANS SURVIVED...?

...YES.

"THE ENTIRE WORLD RESTS WITHIN THE BOSOM OF ISHBALA."

KAH KAH KAH

EVEN A PLACE LIKE THIS THAT SMELLS OF SOOT BEGINS TO FEEL LIKE *HOME* ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.

HEY, TRY NOT TO MOVE AROUND SO MUCH. AFTER ALL, YOU ALMOST DIED.

GGHH !

I'M SORRY TO CAUSE YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE...

RIGHT ARM? YEAH, IT'S HURT REALLY BAD, BUT YOU STILL HAVE BOTH OF YOUR ARMS AND LEGS.

IS MY RIGHT ARM STILL THERE? OR WAS IT GONE?

...HEY BOY.

IS THAT A TATTOO ?

BUT YOUR RIGHT ARM'S REALLY AMAZING.

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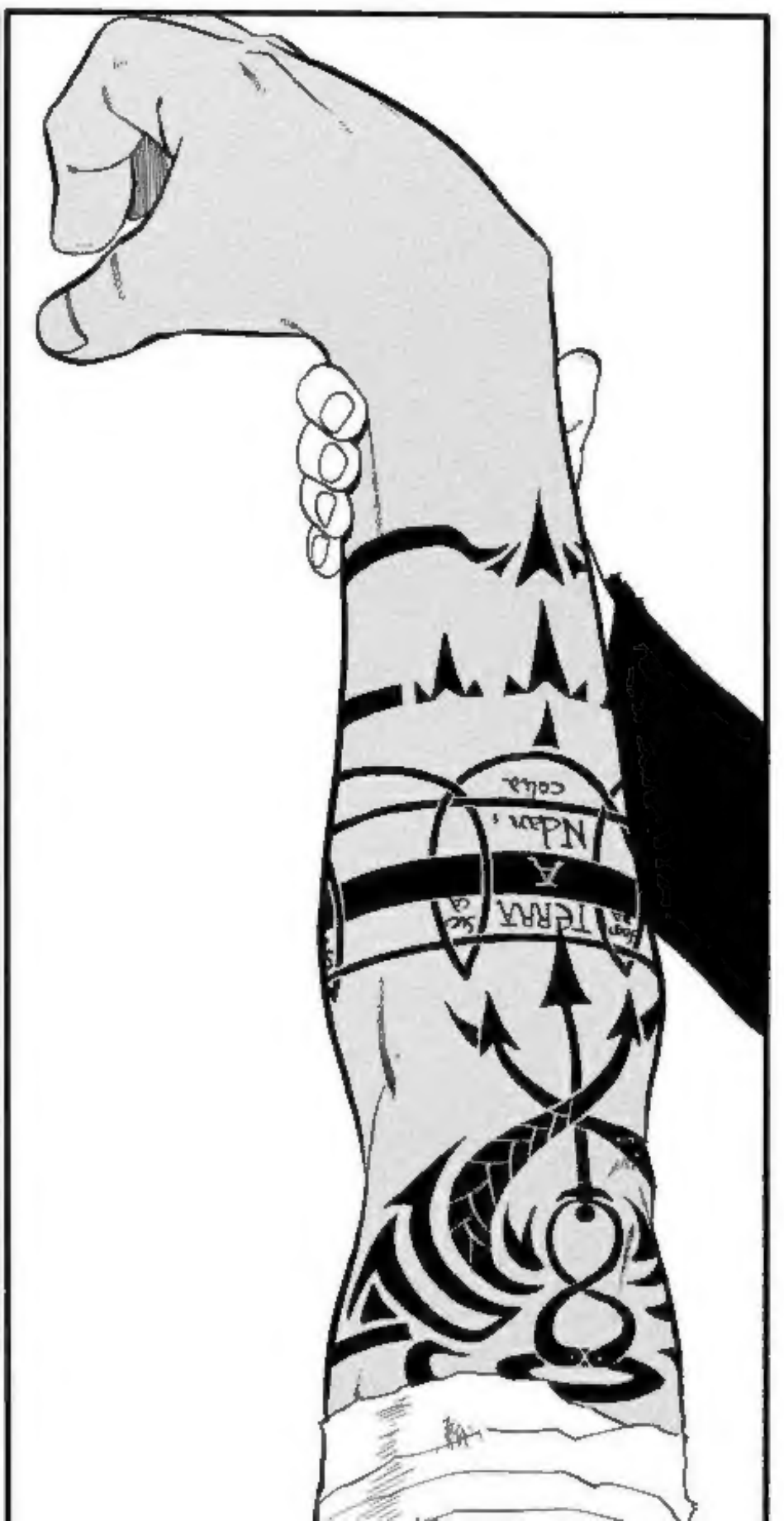

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